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THE PRESBYTRIE BOOKE OF KIRKCALDIE

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THE

PRESBYTRIE BOOKE

OF

KIRKCALDIE

BEING THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THAT PRESBYTERY FROM THE 15TH DAY OF APRIL 1630 TO THE 14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1653

EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND INDEX

BY

WILLIAM STEVENSON, M.A., F.S.A.Scot.

MINISTER OF AUCHTERTOOL

KIRKCALDY:

PUBLISHED BY JAMES BURT

MDCCCC

TO

THE BRETHREN

OF THE PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY

THIS PRINTED COPY

OF AN ANCIENT VOLUME OF THEIR RECORDS

IS DEDICATED

BY THE EDITOR

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OF THEIR

KINDNESS AND COURTESY.

ὧν ἀναθεωροῦντες τὴν ἔκβασιν τῆς ἀναστροφῆς, μιμεῖσθε τὴν πιστιν

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PREFACE.

THE editor's apology for drawing this book out of the obscurity in which it has lain for the last two hundred and fifty years, is that neither the history of the district comprised within the bounds of the old Presbytery of Kirkcaldy nor the history of the Kirk of Scotland can, for those eventful years of which it is a faithful local record, be properly written without it.

He has succeeded in deciphering all the writing in the volume except a few sentences at the top of one or two pages blurred as he conjectures by rain which fell in ancient days when the volume was being carried by "Mr J Miller, scrib to the Presbytrie" from the meetings of the brethren. The minutes are given as they stand in the original, with the exception of sederunts and some trifling matters, such as clerks' fees, and the editor claims that he is justified in so publishing them on the ground that not otherwise can a true estimate of the social and religious condition of those times be formed. The introduction to this book is not meant in any sense to be exhaustive.

It merely indicates what the contents of the book are, and much has been left unnoticed that is of great antiquarian and local interest.

The editor hopes that he may yet be enabled to give publicity to some of the subsequent volumes of the Records.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE period covered by this book as every student of history knows was one of the most eventful and important in the annals of our country. Much of our liberty, civil and religious, took its rise in those days from the conflict that was waged between the King and the majority of his subjects.

Evidences of this conflict and of the prevailing temper of the times, with echoes of fierce controversies and the clash of arms, are to be found everywhere in the book.

With the increase of imperiousness on the part of the misguided King and his advisers we find evidence not only of a corresponding increase of determination to oppose it on the part of the brethren of the Presbytery, but also a clearly expressed intention of making stand for liberty on the statute law of the country, which in some cases had been ignored for a generation. As long as the Bishops were only Moderators of the higher courts of the Kirk and did not interfere with its worship and discipline no serious voice was raised against them, they were tolerated out of a sense of loyalty to the throne, but when they became actively aggressive at the instigation of the Court and sought to force a new policy and ritual upon the Kirk, passive obedience was deemed to be altogether out of the question. We find the first hint of their determination to assert their rights as churchmen in "The Supplication and Complaint" to the "Lords of Secrete Counsell" (p. 122), a respectful and loyal petition—which takes exception to the Book of Canons and Constitutions and the Book of Common Prayer on the ground that the one subverts the order of the Kirk in an unscriptural and arbitrary manner, and the other practically destroys the work of the Reformation. "We are driven," they add, "in such straits as we must aither by process of excommunication and horneing suffer the ruin of estates and fortunes or elss by breach of covenant with God, and forsaiking the way of true religion fall under the wrath of God which unto us is more grievous than death."

The second hint is of a more practical character. On the twenty-sixth of April, 1638, Mr George Gillespie "was admittit and ordained minister of the Kirk of Weyms be imposition of hands and singing of psalmes."

The significance of this ordination be it noted lies in the fact that it was given by the Presbytery and not by the Archbishop, who in all previous cases ordained the presentee—leaving it to the Presbytery to admit—and also in the fact that the Presbytery in the act of his admission claimed the power of ordination *jure divino* and also *jure nostro parliamentario*, and did ordain and admit "notwithstanding the ArchB had refused both by word and wreatt ever to admitt the said Georg unless he gave ane oath and subscription which was not warrantable by any law of this

Kirk and kingdom" (p. 130). Before going further, however, a brief notice may be taken of the church under the Bishops.

It is curious to us with our modern notions of Episcopacy to find an Episcopal church governed and regulated almost entirely according to Presbyterian principles. There were Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, and Assemblies with Bishops and Archbishops.

The General Assemblies, it is true, were repudiated by the Assembly of Glasgow in 1638 as "pretended Assemblies . . . . . and every one of them to have been from the beginning unfree, unlawful, and null Assemblies, and never to have had nor hereafter to have any Ecclesiasticall authoritie," still the fact is a curious one and shows that the church was Presbyterian though nominally Episcopalian. It is much to be regretted that this compromise between Episcopacy and Presbyterianism was not continued, as it would have rendered the church more effective and more perfectly organised; it would indeed have realised as near as possible the church that John Knox laboured to establish—bishops being in place of his superintendents. But for the unwise policy of Charles and his advisers it seems very probable that such a church would have met with the acceptance of the people, and would have been established upon a lasting foundation.

Towards the end of James's reign—notwithstanding certain signs to the contrary—the weight of evidence goes to prove that the bitterness between the two parties in the church was dying down, and if Charles's policy had been more tolerant and conciliatory the years of strife and bloodshed that marked the latter portion of his reign might have been years of peace and seen the final disappearance of party rivalry.

The majority of the parishes within the bounds of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy being within the ancient diocese of St Andrews were until the end of 1638 under the spiritual oversight of Archbishop Spottiswoode. The relation of the Archbishop to the Presbytery so far as one can judge from the Records seems on the whole to have been of a harmonious and even beneficent character.

He may have had his failings as a churchman—and his enemies said they were great—but so far as we can see they were on the side of charity. Thus when matters ecclesiastically were in a bad state in the parish of Kinghorn the Presbytery advised the minister to "goe to the Archbishope of St Androis and deall with him to tak some gude courss for settling the confusions of the Kirk," which shows that the Presbytery had great confidence in the friendly offices of the Archbishop. It was on his initiation that collections were made in the Kirks within the bounds for "the distressed people of the Pallatinat," "for relief of the Turkish captives," also "for the Harbour of Portpatrick," etc.

When James Abercrombie of Strathrudie was on the point of being excommunicated by the minister of Auchterderran the Archbishop besought the brethren to deal yet further with him to bring him to a better frame of mind; he desired the Presbytery also in a case of discipline to relax the severity of the sentence, and in the case of Mr Spittall, a bankrupt minister of Dysart, whom the Kirk session of that parish were anxious to oust from his place he wrote asking the brethren "to

tak the best courss annent the settling of the maters of Dysert betwixt the said Mr William and the Towne, and to send one of their number to Dysert to preach there the next sabbath, and to exhort them to peace and unitie." From these references we are warranted in saying that he exercised an influence with the Presbytery of an excellent and charitable kind notwithstanding the divergence of opinion which must have existed between him and the majority of the members during the latter days of his Arch-Episcopate. The charges on which he was deposed by the Assembly of Glasgow, viz.: "adulterie, drunkennes, preaching Arminianisme and Papisticall doctrine" find no shadow of confirmation in this Record, and common charity and sense bid us believe that one so high in the church and so honoured by his Sovereign was incapable of the vices with which he was so recklessly libelled.

On the approach of the famous Glasgow Assembly the minds of the brethren of the Presbytery were firmly settled as to the policy which they meant to favour there, and in a minute of date September 16th of that year we have a most clear indication of this and of their temper and determination. "The whole brethren of the Presbytrie with the ruleing elders underwritten, viz. the Earles of Rothes and Weyms, Lairds of Arnott, Auchmowtie, Durie, Fynmonth elder, Blaikburn, Halyairds, Babeadie, and James Pitcairne of Treatone considering the danger that may eschew upon division or foirstalling of voits and theirfoir by lifting up of their hands they solemnlie sweare be the Lord that they sall not divyd nor foirstall thair voyces nor do nor say anything that may be prejudicial to a free General Assemblie naither for preferment for promises nor money nor any way whatsoever as they sall anser to God."

The commissioners chosen to represent the Presbytery at the Assembly were Robert Douglas, minister of Kirkcaldy, Frederik Carmichael, minister of Kennoway, Robert Cranston, minister of Scoonie, with John, Earl of Rothes, as ruling elder—all men of weight and standing in the church. The Earl of Rothes was one of the chief leaders of the Assembly, and Robert Douglas (said, by the way, to have been a son of Queen Mary), who afterwards became the leader of the church, was one of the wisest and most judicious men of his age. It is not here that the proceedings of that Assembly need be discussed, but it may be said that while much was done that was in the circumstances of the country necessary and even justifiable, it may be also said that the Assembly on some important points forgot it was only an ecclesiastical court and assumed powers which belonged only to the Parliament of the country. The Assembly indeed for the time being regarded itself as supreme, and with a bigotry worthy of the pre-Reformation church removed all offending obstacles that would not or could not conform to its dictates. The spirit of the Assembly soon showed itself elsewhere.

Two of the members of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Doctor John Michelson and Doctor Andrew Lawmonth, who could not see eye to eye with their brethren or approve of the turn which events had taken were at once proceeded against. They were summoned to appear before the brethren to give answer why they refused to subscribe the covenant or to own the Assembly as lawful. On the 7th of February, 1639, not much more than two months after the rising of the Assembly,

they were deposed by a commission composed of the Presbytery and certain members of the Presbyteries of Cupar and St Andrews.

The charges against Doctor Michelson were that he had neglected the catechising of his people ; that he had said the nobles were taking the crown off the King's head and putting it on their own ; that he had called the covenant a black covenant, and allowed his son to preach and celebrate the sacraments although not a lawfully called minister. Doctor Lawmonth was accused of having called the subscribers of the covenant "perjured," and also that, like Doctor Michelson, he had refused to subscribe it himself, or to acknowledge the lawfulness of the Assembly. Each of the libels framed against them states that the brethren were "willing to gain rather than to lose a man who hath lived so long in the ministrie," but the hot haste with which they were deposed can hardly be said to bear out the statement.*

The Assembly of Glasgow was tacitly a declaration of the rebellion of Scotland, and as such it was treated by the King who immediately took steps to punish his refractory subjects.

In the meantime the Covenanters were not inactive. They knew what to expect and they accordingly made their preparations.

In this Record of date 7th March we read of "a great lot of the brethren being at ane meeting of the Kirk at Edr," and that meeting, as is now well known, appointed the famous "Committee of Estates," which became practically the head and executive of the kingdom. This committee exercising functions of a supreme and legislative nature issued an edict that every fourth man should be armed and trained, appointed local committees of war and established a complete plan of military organisation throughout the kingdom. Within a fortnight General Leslie, an elder and heritor within the bounds of the Presbytery, with a thousand men captured Edinburgh Castle, and other risings taking place the whole country was soon in the hands of the Covenanters.

According to Baillie (vol. i. p. 160) "the towns of Fife all along the shore made up such sconces and fosses and planted such a number of ship cannon upon the batteries that they were all in a case of tolerable defence."

On the first of May the Marquis of Hamilton, with a fleet of twenty vessels and some five thousand Royalists, appeared in the Firth of Forth. Of his advent we

* After his deposition Doctor Lawmonth's name disappears from the pages of the Record except in connection with a quarrel between his successor in Markinch and the Laird of Brunton ("who maintained that Doctor Lawmonth was als honest als faithfull and als conscientious a minister as was in Fyff.") He retired to England, and died there a clergyman of that Church. Doctor Michelson, however, remained in Burntiland, and there exposed himself to further attacks on the part of the covenanting Presbytery.

Summoned to appear upon several occasions before the Presbytery he refused to appear, and when waited upon by some of the brethren declared that he would not sign the covenant, but shortly after he came before the Presbytery and declared his willingness, as also to "mak a publik declaration in the Kirk of Burntisland of his grieffe for the offence that he had done thair be former cariage." He did make a public declaration but not such as the brethren desired, for when they heard the nature of it they found that he had "given more offence to the people and maid the mater worse." This is the last that we hear of him, except that he once preached in the pulpit of Kirkcaldy for Mr Symson, his brother-in-law, and thereby scandalised the brethren.

have the following notice, "no exercise the last day in respect of the King's shipps in the Forth."

As a warning of the danger which was at hand beacon lights were kindled on the hilltops and these summoned the people to arms, who, to the number of twenty thousand, swarmed down to the shores of the Firth to oppose the landing of the King's troops. As is well known they opposed that landing successfully, and Hamilton after a fruitless attempt was recalled to the Royal headquarters at Berwick.

Shortly after this General Leslie was appointed Commander-in-Chief at an informal meeting of the Scottish Parliament, and he with the rest of the Covenanting leaders and their troops took up a position on Duns Law to oppose the King's army. The King soon saw fit to come to terms with the Covenanters, and by royal declaration he conceded that "all matters ecclesiastical shall be determined by an Assembly of the Kirk, and matters civil by Parliament and other inferior judicatories established by law; and Assemblies accordingly shall be kept once a year or as shall be agreed upon at the nixt General Assembly."

The King in this treaty was only temporising with his Scottish subjects, and in the following year there was again a call to arms. The following excerpts from the minutes indicate what steps were taken by the Presbytery to uphold the cause of the Covenant: "The commissioners who were appoynted to speak with the Generall when he was heir declaired they knew not he was heir till he was gone." On the 19th June the Presbytery gave a bond until voluntary contributions could be had "to supplie a present necessitie, viz. 3600 merks to pay these Officiors of fortoun heir in Fyff to whom they were obliged so much."

July 9, "the whilk day also my Lord Elcho desyred that he myt have one of thair number to goe with him to preache with his regiment whereunto the brethern condescendit."

July 16, "Ane act from the committee of warr at Kirkcaldie anent the sherars and mawers and thair fies sein and allowed and ordered to be intimate in all the Kirks."

August 13. "It is appoyntit that there be ane solume fast keiped in all the Kirks of the countrie upon the 23rd day of this instant and the Thursday thairafter for a prosperous success to the Armie."

September 24, voluntary contributions for the army to the amount of 1775 merks were intimated by six parishes in the Presbytery (p. 188).

November 5. "A lettre sent be the Erle of Rothess desyreing that Mr John Moncreif may be sent to the armie with all expedition . . . . another letter sent from my Lord Elcho . . . . to supply Mr Mungo Law and Mr Georg Gillespies place."

February 18. "Anent the Generall his letter to the Presbytrie for a preacher to the horss troops of Fyffe the brethern thinks that seeing these troops belongs to all Fyffe, and that hithertills this Presbytrie hes had the brethren furnishing a preacher thereto that now the rest of the Presbytries should bear thair burden also."

The Scots army under General Leslie was not long in crossing the border,

and shortly after crossed the Tyne, notwithstanding the presence of a Royalist contingent, and successfully occupied Newcastle. The first reference to the presence of the army there is the following, "Anent the relieving Mr Thomas Melvill from Newcastell the Presbytrie are to advise aganest the nixt day." While in Newcastle the Scots dispatched to the King who was at York proposals of peace, in which they sought him to consider their grievances and "with the advice and consent of Estates of England convened in Parliament to settle a firm and desireable peace."

Charles feeling himself too weak to resist the forces of rebellion agreed at length to the proposal of the Scots, and summoned what is known in history as the "Long Parliament."

So far the Covenanters triumphed by holding the balance of power in their hands.

But Parliament did not succeed in rectifying the affairs of the nation and troubles coming fast and thick owing to the stubborn resistance maintained on both sides, Charles determined to conciliate the Scots as a possible way out of his difficulty.

He came to Edinburgh, yielded to every demand formulated by the Church, and sought to win favour with the nobles by lavishly bestowing titles upon them.

In the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy General Leslie was made Earl of Leven, and the lairds of Bogie Halhill and Halyairds were made knights. There was for a time general rejoicing in Scotland, and the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy agreed to keep a solemn thanksgiving "for the goodness of God to the land." The time of rejoicing however was short. Terrible news reached the country of the massacre of Protestants in Ulster, said to number fifty thousand, and it was unfortunately though falsely believed that Charles himself had given warrant for the horrible atrocities. A Scots army directed by General Leslie went to Ireland to assist in redressing the wrongs of the English and Scotch settlers there. His son, Colonel Leslie, had his marriage hastened with the sister of the Laird of Kinnimonth, "he being commanded be the Generall to repair towards Irland with all expedition, and being once proclaimed onlie the Presbytrie in that case dispenses with him in respect of his necessitie." The result of this revolt in Ireland and the ruin and desolation of families finds ample evidence in the remaining pages of the record. Collections were made in all the churchs for the distressed people, and a continuous stream of supplicants—ousted Irish ministers and ruined ladies and gentlemen—came to the meetings of Presbytery bearing testimonials from various quarters craving the charity of the brethren. But it is not necessary to string all the references in this book on to the main line of the history of those days or to follow the fortunes of the Church through the varied and exciting experiences of the next few years. "The sinful Engagement in England," as it was called, kept the Presbytery fully occupied in bringing those who had taken part in it to a penitent and proper frame of mind, and the open quarrel between the Resolutioners and Protesters which embittered the Church for at least two generations finds ample details in this book. It is somewhat curious to note that the leaders of

these two parties, Robert Douglas and Patrick Gillespie had both been ministers of Kirkcaldy.

The Presbytrie Booke.

This volume of the Records of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy is the earliest of which the Presbytery is in possession. Some earlier volumes unfortunately have gone astray or been destroyed.

Mr James Millar, newly appointed clerk, was ordained (p. 8) "to caus mak ane new Buik for the Presbytrie, the former being alreadie filled up," and further on we read (p. 74) that the Presbytery appointed "The Parson of Dysert and Mr James Symson to goe to Mr John Tullus (the previous clerk) and get the Presbytrie books from him."

These books are not subsequently mentioned. When or how they were lost is not known. It is also matter for regret that the Records of the Presbytery from 1653 to 1693 have shared the same fate.

The Clerk.

This volume is wholly in the handwriting of Mr James Millar, who in attesting the minutes half yearly for examination by the Synod, describes himself as "scrib to the Presbytrie."

As a "scrib" he has done his work with the greatest possible care and fidelity.* There is hardly one correction in the whole book, which in the original covers six hundred and twenty-two closely written pages. His salary as clerk amounted at first to the frugal sum of 28 shillings sterling, "to be payit be everie minister within the Presbytrie yearly ane theirof at everie Assemblie (Synodal) beginning the first terms payment the Presbytrie preceeding the Assemblie." Laterly, however, it seems to have been augmented to £3, 4s. sterling per annum, being a dollar or 4 merks from each of the brethren, and for this allowance he had to be present at their weekly meetings which began usually at ten o'clock in the morning and sometimes only closed with the failing light of day. When Presbyterial Visitations were in progress he had to travel as best he could once a week to such outlying parishes as Portmoak or Ballingry, ten or fourteen miles distant, and there sit for hours in damp, unheated, and sometimes partially unslated kirks recording the parochial impressions of the character and doings of the minister, reader, schoolmaster, elders, and other "delinquents."

But in those days six pence was a good wage *per diem* for a mason or wright, and the average stipend of a minister did not exceed £30, while the salary of a country schoolmaster was considered good at £6. His additional Presbyterial work in writing summonses calling upon delinquents to compear before the Presbytery, libels against ministers, Engagers and others, none of which are engrossed

* Upon one occasion only does Mr Millar seem to have received any help as clerk from the brethren, and this was soon after the Assembly of Glasgow. On the day when Drs Michelson and Lawmonth were deposed we read (p. 142) "The clerk continewed bot adjoynes Mr Georg Gillespie with him to the next Synodall Assemblie to help him."

in the Records with decreets and processes, must have been of a very arduous character.

We glean from the records that Mr Millar was a licentiate of the church. Upon several occasions he took the Exercise and Addition of the brethren, and we further learn that he was a householder in the Burgh of Kirkcaldy, for we find him complaining to the Presbytery of the action of the magistrates in quartering "souldiers" upon him.

Beyond this his character and personality do not come into view in this Record.

The Minister.

The minister in the days of this Record was a very important personage, and, generally speaking, he seems to have been fully conscious of the fact.

As a rule he belonged to one of the wealthier families; most of the ministers indeed at that time were the sons of country Lairds. It is somewhat difficult to picture a minister in the days of Charles the First — notwithstanding that he bulked so large in the public eye—as he went about performing the duties of his office, but if his pastoral work was as faithfully performed as his Presbyterial he must have indeed been a busy man. No doubt he got much assistance from his elders, of whom he had an extraordinary number, judging by the lists given in this book, and they, as became their calling, were "faithfull delators" of all the scandal, witchcraft, and superstition in the parish. An Act passed by the Scottish Parliament at the instigation of James VI. ordained that his dress should be of a "priest-grey" colour, but it is generally believed that the Act was never seriously implemented. Mr David Martin, minister of Auchtertool, who died in 1636, lies in effigy in the churchyard dressed in the clerical attire of that time. He has on a pulpit gown, a short jacket buttoned from the top, and evidently belted, with knee-breeches, long stockings, and buckled shoes. He does not seem to have worn bands; his beard is peaked after the fashion of the day, and he wears on his head a closely-fitting skull cap. His dress was the common dress of the period, and with his gown off he would pass for an ordinary country laird. His manse is elsewhere described in this introduction with mention of his "brewhouss," showing that austere and grave though he was by reason of much exercise of discipline, he could at times unbend and think that "regarded through a social glass the world is nane sae bleak like."

In those days when he went abroad he was addressed as "Master John" or "Master David," and to him the dames curtsied and the "guidmen louted low." These fashions are only a generation gone as yet in some parts.

He was not a favourite everywhere, and indeed throughout the parish he was rather dreaded than loved. The laird looked at him askance, for this was the time when teinds were being valued and the Church was making inroads on the purses of the heritors to pay for schools and schoolmasters, and also when the burden of kirks and manses was being put by the good King Charles upon their shoulders.

The men who had "milns" or "saltpans" going upon the Sunday and who sold wine or ale in their taverns on the Sunday afternoon, or the farmers who had

their men shearing corn on that day were even more bitter than the lairds, for they had remembrance of him when they appeared as delinquents before the session and he laid the lash of the Gospel heavily upon their sins. Withered beldames shrank indoors at his approach, remembering how some of their cronies had been strangled and burned as witches, and all through the parish there were people to whom the minister was like a passing judgment.

On the Sunday he came into the kirk after the third bell, when the Reader had done his duty by reading prayers from Knox's Liturgy, chapters from the Old and New Testaments, reciting the Commandments and Creed, and the bairns had been catechised for the edification of the whole assembled parish.

He entered the kirk with his hat on—which curiously he did not remove in the pulpit—and gave out the 95th Psalm. Then, after exposition, he preached the sermon full of the terrors of the Law on the one side and the sweet calls of the Gospel on the other. In the days of the covenant this was a long and passionate harangue, with much in it that was of a controversial and political character.

Sermon over, the delinquents—some of whom had before the service stood at the kirk door in sackcloth or white sheets barefooted, and jeered at by all the passers-by, and then set in sight of all the people in the church on the repentance stool—these had to be gravely rebuked and exhorted. For serious offences, such as baning the minister or cursing the elders, they were called upon to crave God's and the congregation's pardon, and thereafter received their injunctions on three separate occasions before being restored to church privileges. Cases are given in this book of some who had to do penance for a whole year.

But the minister did not pass uncriticised, and his conduct was not in all cases regarded as immaculate. At a visitation of the kirk at Kinghorn Sir George Hamilton complained that the minister "is over strict and vigorous in suteing his taxations and viccarage dueties," and another elder accused him of unsound doctrine and that he was negligent in visiting the sick. One of the lairds in the parish of Kennoway told the brethren that he could "learn nothing of his minister bot pryd, averice, and envie," and an elder in Ballingry affirmed of his minister that he thought "his ministrie weak, yea, verie weak, and that he was slow enough in visiting the sick"; while another stated "that he was of a weak memorie and a slow gift."

The parishioners of Kirkcaldy complained that their minister was too credulous; that he carried things to the pulpit and made indiscreet speeches there, and judging from specimens given (p. 353) he most certainly did so.

An elder in Markinch went the length of swearing in the minister's presence at a meeting of session, and of telling him that he made "ciphers" of the elders and "ledd horss," and that some of them durst not speak in the session.

The minister of Auchtertool complained to the Presbytery that the laird of his parish called him "ane tinkler"; that he sought to fee his servant over his head, and that he threatened to hold a meeting of session without the minister's presence. These cases are however exceptional, and the complainers are nearly all known to have been disaffected persons belonging to the extreme sections of one or other of

the two parties into which the Church was at that time divided. That the ministers were vigorous and earnest men is clearly seen from the leading part which they took in all the events of the times, and their actions, though sometimes misguided and based upon intolerance and bigotry, were always strongly patriotic.

It would not be true to say that they administered discipline without fear or favour. They did in practice make a distinction amongst men. Common men answering the brethren in an impertinent way were ordered instantly to be warded, but gentlemen had to be more tenderly dealt with, and were often waited upon at their residence so that they might be brought to a right and proper state of mind. On more than one occasion we find them deciding in favour of a rich as against a poor person.

Thus a woman averred that a gentleman was the father of her child, which he denied, and the brethren decided to take his word on the sole ground that he was "the more famouss" (p. 88). A laird haunted a tavern within the bounds, and the tavernkeeper's daughter had two children to him. No charge, strange to say, was brought against the laird, but the tavernkeeper was summoned to answer for keeping a disorderly house, and his statement before the Presbytery is curious. He could not, he said, put the laird out of his house as he was "ane gentleman," but he would be pleased if the brethren would order it. It was in keeping with this that at that period the civil law allowed an injured husband to slay the adulterer, "if he were a mean person."

The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy had many distinguished ministers in the days when this book was written. Some of them had not their equals in the church. The names of Robert Douglas, George Gillespie, and his brother Patrick, amongst others, hold a chief place in the history of that period.

The Parish Kirk.

This building, generally speaking, seems to have been in a neglected condition. In the case of the majority of the Kirks in the Presbytery it was the old romantic pillared church of pre-Reformation days (15, 17, 95) in a battered, deformed and decaying state, and the chief interest in it seems to have been in connection with the allocation of seats, about which, as this Record amply attests, there were frequent and violent disputes.

Some of these disputes continued in progress for years, as in the case of Kirkcaldy, Auchterderran, and Auchtertool. These cases caused endless trouble, feuds, and heartburnings. The dispute in Auchterdirran led to a process which begins with the early pages of the book, drags its way through it with continual summonses, and ends at its close with the reduction of a decree of excommunication pronounced against the principal disputant. In the case of Auchtertool, a paltry difference between the minister and the Laird of Halyairds about a seat claimed by a member of the Balmuto family, led to bitter recriminations of which an instructive and amusing specimen is given in a letter written by the minister to the Laird's friend, Mr James Baird, Advocate (pp. 196-7-8), and the case finds termination in the minister being practically obliged to leave the parish.

The Kirk of Portmoak in addition to being inaccessable at particular seasons of the year on account of the overflow of Lochleven was so ruinous that the parishioners declared it dangerous to sit in; the Presbytery when visiting Kinghorn complained to the heritors of holes being in the roof of the Kirk; "they regraited" when visiting Dysart "My Lord Sinclair his Ile that it is altogether decayed in the glass windoes of the samyne"; and at Leslie they report that they found the Kirk "verie ruinous."

The seats in the kirks were in some cases a collection of stools and forms which could be moved about at pleasure, and which were sometimes "casten out" to the Kirkyaird (p. 18), when the owners placed them where some other parishioners were determined they should not be; in other cases they were erections seemingly after the nature of a grand stand (p. 44) and capable of containing between fifty and a hundred persons. Besides the seats there was the Repentance Stool, which in the case of the larger churches was a raised platform on which a dozen or more delinquents could be exhibited in the "sackgoune" of the session, in "whyte sheitts" or in their "owne habite."

In the steeple of the kirk there was a ward room into which witches, contumacious and other offending individuals were thrust sometimes in unceremonious fashion by order of the Session or Presbytery.

The steeple of Dysart seems to have been the favourite place in which the Presbytery lodged all persons suspected or such as were deemed worthy of serious punishment, and one is tempted to wonder how the poor creatures fared who for weeks on end were held in close ward in so small and dismal a place. At the door of the church were the Jougs which were used as a wholesome deterrent for all such as uttered blasphemous or malignant speeches. The kirkyard in some cases had no walls (p. 173), and burials were common in the body of the kirk in spite of acts of Assembly against the pernicious custom.

The Parish Manse.

The parish manse in the days of Charles I. was a plain two storeyed building covered with "thak" and "dovats," as also were the adjoining outhouses. From the various "compts" of expenses "debursit" upon the building and repairing of parish manses embodied in the Records, it is easy to see what accommodation was at that time considered sufficient for a Scottish minister and his family. We have five cases detailed of partial and total rebuilding, viz. Auchterderran, Auchtertool, Kennoway, Kinglassie, and Scoonie. In the cases of Auchterdirran, Auchtertool, and Kinglassie the manses seem to have consisted of five apartments with a kitchen; in the cases of Kennoway and Scoonie of one chamber less. They seem all to have been mainly of one type—a large hall with a chamber on either side (one a study), two chambers above and a kitchen behind. The hall was the dining-room, drawing-room, and parlour of those days, and in some cases it was the only room in which, with the exception of the kitchen or "workhouss," there was a fireplace. On either side of the hall there was an open stair leading to the east and west chambers above.

In Auchterderran manse there was only one stair in the hall, but that manse differed from the others in having a "tour" with a "turnpyk" which led up to one of the upper chambers.

In the hall of the same manse we read that there was a "fixed buird-head with a furme thairto,"also a "weshellbink," and at the back of the "buird-head" there was a fixed "ambrie," and in the same hall a "littil pantrie." The fixed "buird-head" was in all likelihood the family table, extending across the head of the hall with the "ambrie" conveniently behind it. Here also there was a "trans" or lobby door, by which the table could be served from the kitchen.

The "weshellbink" can be supposed to be the seat at which the servants sat at meat, for in those days even in the greatest houses the vassals or servants sat at the table of their masters—below the salt. Attached to the manse in addition to the usual outhouses was a "brewhouss," and in this connection it is worthy of notice that the ministers furnished the masons and other tradesmen with "morneing and efternoones drinks." Thus the minister of Kennoway charges his successor £40 (Scots) for the above; the minister of Scoonie 54 shillings, and no objection seems to have been taken to these items. The cost of a manse seems to have been about £20 sterling, and in all cases except those of Leslie and Kirkcaldy to have been borne by the ministers alone. It was not until 1663 that this burden was transferred from the ministers to the parishioners or heritors, who by an act passed at that date were ordained to build manses where needed at a cost of not less than five hundred merks or more than one thousand pounds Scots, and that where manses had been built ministers or their executors were to obtain repayment of their outlays.

The Schoolmaster.

In none of the parishes within the bounds of the Presbytery was there a settled school until after the year 1636.

Before this the Reader of the parish, in addition to reading the Scriptures and the common prayers in the church, kept school for the children,* in which one of the main text books was Craig's catechism, for which he usually received the modest salary of 40 merks.

The Reader was in most cases a graduate of one of the Universities, hence he is always designated "Mr" in the Records, which in those days had a real meaning, viz. *artium magister.*

In 1616, as is well known, an act was passed by the Privy Council ordaining a school to be established in every parish "where convenient means may be had for entertaining a school." This act was ratified by Statute in 1633, and in their visitations the Bishops of the various Dioceses were with the most part of the parishioners "to set down and stent every plough or husband land according to the worth for the maintenance and establishing of the said schools." For many years, however, they do not seem to have made much headway, possibly the

* "The Reider cannot attend to the schole (in Kinghorne) so as is requisite in respect of the distractions of his calling as reider" (p. 162).

indifference of the heritors and the people themselves may have much to do with this.

In the case of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy it was not until 1636 that the Archbishop of St Andrews saw fit to give commission to the brethren to visit the kirks for the purpose of planting schools. Under date May 5th of that year we read, "Doctor Andro Lawmonth delyverit ane commissione direct be My Lord Archbishope of St Androis to Doctor John Michelsone and so many of the Presbytrie as he pleases to assist with him for visitation of the Kirks of the Presbytrie." In that year all the parishes within the bounds except Leslie and Auchtertool were visited and schools established according to the act of 1616.

Auchtertool and Leslie were within the Diocese of Dunkeld, and the Archbishop of St Andrews could not grant a commission for visiting them; they were however settled with schools two or three years after the overthrow of Episcopacy.

The burden of maintaining schools thus laid upon the heritors does not seem in all cases to have been willingly or cheerfully borne, for in some cases we read that particular heritors would not pay their stent, and, indeed, it may be said that the payment of schoolmasters and the charge for the upkeep of schools were regarded in a sense as voluntary until the passing of the act of 1696, which made it imperative for heritors to provide in each parish a school and schoolmaster.* The salaries apportioned to the schoolmasters within the Presbytery varied according to the population and wealth of the parishes. Thus, in Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Burntiland, Kinghorn, and Wemyss the salary was fixed at 300 merks or £16, 17s 6d. sterling, per annum. In Markinch the salary was fixed at 200 merks (£11, 5s.) on the ground it was a parish of 64 ploughs and possessed 18 mills. The heritors of Auchterderran, Portmoak, and Kennoway were ordered to stent themselves for £80 Scots (£6, 13s. 4d.), it being stated in the case of the latter that it had 32 ploughs. Scoonie was fixed at £100 Scots, and Ballingry at 100 merks (£5, 12s. 6d.).† In country parishes the schoolmaster was appointed by the Presbytery on the recommendation of the minister after he had satisfied the brethren as to his character and skill in literature.

In Kirkcaldy and Dysart, however, the bailies and heritors claimed a voice along with the ministers in the appointment, and the Presbytery seems to have allowed their claim.

* "The minister and scholemaster regraits that thair is no hous for the schole nor the scholemaster (Kinglessie, p. 169), the minister regraited he could not get a schole among them for laik of maintenance (Auchtertule, p. 166), question proponit be Mr John Moncreif, minister at Kingorne, if he may laufulie use some of the means for the maintanience for ane Doctor to the schole out of the Kirk box. Anserit he myt do so seeing it is pious uses" (Kingorne, p. 179).

† The salary of a schoolmaster in a small country parish was less than the wage of a mason or wright, who with constant work could earn about £7, 10s. per annum. In the parish of Auchtertool during the last century the schoolmasters were continually leaving because of the "little encouragement" they got, and at the end of the century the whole salary of William Guild, father of a late minister of the parish, was not more than £9 sterling, and this sum included not only heritors' stent but scholar's, marriage, session clerk, and precentor's fees, with a cottage and garden. Scholars were not, however, highly valued in olden times. Samuel Rutherford as Regent or Professor of Humanity at St Andrews had only £8 sterling per annum.

The Election of Ministers.

This has ever been an important and strife-breeding question in the history of the Kirk of Scotland. Up to 1638 the order according to this volume was as follows :—The patron having selected a suitable presentee for a vacant parish, recommended him to the Archbishop, and he in turn ordained him, and gave him letters of collation directed to the Moderator of the Presbytery, who with the brethren took the presentee on trial, and if they found him qualified admitted him to the benefice.

This system seems to have answered well enough, so far as the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy was concerned. No settlement was disputed, and the only hitch in regard to an appointment was in the case of the famous George Gillespie, who shortly before the Assembly at Glasgow, was ordained to the parish of Wemyss.

But the difficulty in his case was not raised by the parishioners, but by the Archbishop, who not only did not ordain him, but "refused both by word and wreate ever to admitt the said Georg unless he gave ane oath * and subscriptione,† which was not warrantable be any law of this kirk or kingdom." After 1638 the order of procedure was somewhat different.

Patronage seems to have been only formally exercised, and on the occurrence of a vacancy commissioners from a vacant parish came to the Presbytery and craved the brethren to nominate a leet of ministers as candidates. The brethren then "condiscended" on the names of three or four ministers, and when the people had fixed upon one or other of the candidates, the Presbytery acquiesced in their selection, and a letter was written by the clerk to the patron asking him to empower the Presbytery to proceed to ordination and admission. This system of selecting ministers for vacant charges might again be resorted to with profit by the church.

Witchcraft.

From 1563 to 1736 witchcraft in Scotland was an offence punishable by death. The last offender is said to have been burned in Sutherlandshire in 1727.

It is beyond dispute that during that period of 164 years and especially after 1643—in which year the Assembly ordained every Presbytery "to consider ways and means for restraining and apprehending witches," and for this purpose recommended a standing commission to be appointed in each Presbytery—an appalling list of helpless women were "worreit" or strangled at the stake and then burned. The more earnest the professors of religion became (if it can be called such) the greater became the sacrifice of human life. The savage tribes of Africa manifest the same spirit in the present day, as recent expeditions to Benin and Kumasi have shown. Witches were not, however, peculiar to Scotland. Acting under, the authority of a Bull of Pope Innocent VIII., thousands of men and women were slaughtered for witchcraft in 1484 in the Alpine valleys.

In 1524 one thousand were burned in the Diocese of Como in Italy, while in

* A new oath superseding the oath expressly set down by Parliament, October 1612.

† Subscription of the book called Cannons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical.

Geneva, the home of Calvin, about five hundred were burned in three months. In the county of Fife, as a result of the new-born zeal for the Church and Covenant in the year 1643, no fewer than thirty women were put to death for witchcraft, and Lamont, in his diary, relates that in 1649 very many witches were taken and burned in various parts of the Kingdom, and in Fife he particularises Burntisland and Dysart. The experience of these two places and the frequency of their mention in the Records in connection with cases of witchcraft leads one to note the somewhat singular fact that they stand almost alone in the Presbytery as witch-producing centres.

Dysart was so tainted with witchcraft that the Presbytery upon one occasion ordered the people of Dysart to observe a fast on that account, but it does not seem to have had any effect in lessening the number against whom "presumptiones" were advanced. The ministers of these two parishes were no doubt much to blame for this state of matters, and indeed it may be said that in many cases witches were manufactured by zealous ministers. Mr Smith, minister for some time at Burntisland, had a great reputation as a witch doctor, and when in 1643 the brethren of the Presbytery of Dunfermline were at their wit's end with the great number of cases on their hands, the Synod appointed Mr Smith as an assessor to help them out of their difficulty. In this volume there are about thirty cases of supposed witchcraft mentioned, but that number is not by any means complete, as references are made to women detained in Dysart and in Burntisland on suspicion without any mention of their number or name. From the evidence led against them some of the supposed witches and wizards ought to have been encouraged rather than suppressed, as they seem to have been able to cure diseases, and by giving charms to ensure health and plenty which was more than either the ministers or the doctors of that day could do. One Marion Greig said in a sick woman's chamber, "God send her health thryse, and she mended everie day thairafter." She was also sent for to cure a man to whom she was supposed to have sent sickness, and this is how the cure was effected. "She came and held ane cloath ay chapine his nose and come and took him be the hand, and when he told her his paine was in his head and face, she chapit ay his face with the clout." William Hutcheon, an innocent "braboner" in Kinghorn, was charged before the Presbytery with curing a person of the "fallen sickness," which he confessed he did, but added that "he knew not it was evil!" Poor William had however "to mak his repentance before the congregation" otherwise he was threatened with trial.

But the witches did not all do philanthropic work of this kind. Margaret Douglas coming into a neighbour's house, the maid who opened the door to her "fell down immediatelie sick and brak her lace and went into ane chalmer and put her back to a bedd and a kist to her womb for paine," and never recovered.

James Roger owed four shillings and sixpence to a witch which he (honest man) refused to pay when asked, but that same night his foolhardiness came home to him "he took ane sicknes and would not ly in bedd bot became madd, and the fit took him becours and he could not bide it and his speache went from him." When we read in the record of a commission being asked to try some accused

person, we feel that that is as good as a sentence of death, as very few were known ever to have been found innocent. Sir George Mackenzie in his *Laws and Customes of Scotland*, says "most of these poor creatures are tortured by their keepers, who being persuaded they do God's service think it their duty to vex and torment poor prisoners. . . . . One of them, who was a silly creature, told me under secresie that she had not confest because she was guilty, but being defam'd for a witch she knew she would starve, for no person thereafter would either give her meal or lodging, and that all men would beat her and hound dogs at her, and that therefore she desired to be out of the world. . . . . And really ministers are oft-times indiscreet in their zeal to have poor creatures to confess this." The "Bloody Mackenzie" was evidently no believer in witchcraft, and yet Ebenezer Erskine, the leading light of the "Associate Synod" mourned the abolition of the capital sentence as an indication of the defection of the times!

There are a few cases of "charming" mentioned in this book, and a curious superstition is brought to light in a case of "Turning the Key," which is thus described, "They took the Byble and enclosed ane key into it and read the 50 Psalm at the 18 verse, and named all the names in the shipp, and when they lighted upon the man whom they suspected the key turned about" (p. 293).

The Morals of the Times.

It is not possible to shut ones eyes to the fact that these were in spite of the stern discipline exercised in a very unsatisfactory condition, but we must not judge of them by a present day standard. We must bear in mind several important facts which should help us to be somewhat charitable towards our "forebears" of those days. *First:* they were only two generations removed from the Reformation, and customs linger long amongst a rude people. "When the Bishop of Aberdeen ordered the dean and chapter of his See to hold a council to devise means for preventing the growth of heresy, the council besought his Lordship 'to cause the Churchmen to reform their shameful lives and remove their open concubines, and that he would have the goodness to show an example by abstaining from the company of the gentlewoman with whom he was greatly slandered.'

"Chisholm, the last Roman Bishop of Dunblane, had both sons and daughters to whom he sacrilegiously alienated the possessions of his See. We have already seen Beaton marrying his daughter to the Earl of Crawford, and we know that his son and namesake received a grant of the lands of Baky" (Cunningham, vol. i. p. 277). *Second:* the common people were extremely ignorant; they were treated little better than slaves by their masters, and they were housed and fed in a manner of which we cannot conceive in the present day, consequently the only pleasures known to them were of the grossest kind. *Third:* the example set before them by their superiors was not of a kind to elevate them. "Dames of high degree could perch themselves on the pillar and look down from the 'spectacle' with open countenance on the gapeing innocents beneath; while country lairds with bastons in hand could make their tour of the kirks on Sunday mornings, and decked as directed in 'window claith' or sackcloth sit and snore through the service, aloft,

without the faintest sense of either the humour of or the pathos of the situation" (Edgar's *Discipline of the Church*, p. 539). *Fourth:* Everybody belonged to the church in those days, consequently we know the very worst that can be told about the people. In the present day there is a large body outside the church of whose morals no record is made except by the Police Court and the Registrar-General. During a membership of Presbytery of nearly as long a period as that which is covered by this book, the editor can only remember one case of discipline being referred from a session to the Presbytery, while here, exclusive of cases of Sabbath breaking, swearing, etc., there are nearly two hundred cases mentioned of which the one half are cases of adultery. It was in conformity with the morals of these times that delinquents came easily back to their previous social status. Samuel Rutherford, as is well known, had to resign his post as Professor of Humanity in St Andrews on account of disgrace, but the scandal attached to his name stood in no way against his preferment. The cases of two probationers are mentioned in this volume, who within a few weeks after appearing as penitents before the Presbytery and the congregation of which they were members, were told that they might open their mouths again to preach the gospel. We have the case of an elder who, after denying his fault, was convicted of and confessed adultery, and who took his place in the session in the presence of the Presbytery at the very meeting in which he had received his last injunctions from the moderator. A bad feature of very many of the cases mentioned is the blank denial of guilt, which is afterwards confessed; and in this connection it may be noted that it is somewhat painful to see the ease with which earls, knights, officers, and others repudiated what was called the "Unlawful Engagement," subscribed the Declaration and brought themselves into line with their Kirk-Session and Presbytery.

In this volume several cases of murder are mentioned as having occured within the bounds of the Presbytery. The so-called murderers are cited to appear before the brethren, but only in one case does the citation seem to have effected its purpose, while in another his minister reports that the suspected murderer was to sail presently "furth of the countrie" but that he would give obedience to the Presbytery when he returned.

It is somewhat difficult to account for these cases or how it came about that so many suspected murderers were allowed to remain at large and defy even the might of the Presbytery.

(Inside on the parchment cover of the Presbytery Book is the following list of ministers drawn up evidently by the Clerk of the Presbytery after the year 1638.)

JA. WILSONE, minister at Kinglessie.
JA. SIMPSON, at Kirkaldie.
ROB. DOUGLAS, at Kirkaldie.
THO. POUTIE, at Leslie.
Mr JO. SMITH, setled as fellowhelper to him Dec. 11, 1634.
WILL. NAIRN, parson at Dysert.
Mr MUNGO LAW, at Dysert 1638.
JA. WILSONE, at Kinglessie, dyed in November 1630.
THO. MELVILL resaved at that time.
Dr ANDRO LAWMONTH, at Markinch.
FREDRECK CARMICHAL, at Kennoway.
ALEXR. SCRIMGEOR, at Kinghorn.
Dr JO. MICHELSONE, at Burntisland, Moderator.
JO. TULLUS, at Weems.
Mr PAT. MEARNS, setled there Sept. 8, 1636, at a visitation, as also Mr GEO. GILLESPIE, April 26, 1638.
DAVID ANDERSONE, at Ballingrie.
ROB. CRANSTOWN, at Skunnie.
JO. CHALMER, at Auchterdirran.
DAV. MARTIN, at Ferochon, Auchtertule.
Mr WM. BELL setled there in Novr., 1636.
HONDRIE WILKIE, resaved and setled at Portmoak, Feb. 24, 1633.

(On the first page of the Records there is written.)

THE PRESBYTRIE BOOKE
OF
KIRKCALDIE
1638.

K. CHARLES II. COME TO CROWN OF SCOTLAND 1650.

This Book is a Register of the actings of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy from April 14, 1630, to September 21, 1653.

A

(On the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Pages is the following catalogue of points controverted between Protestants and Papists, and which evidently was written for the purpose of guiding the Brethren in determining which subject should be the "Common Head" to be handled by one or other of their number.)

CATALOGUS CONTROVERSIARUM INTER EVANGELICOS ET PONTIFICIOS.

I. De Scriptura Sacra Controversiae.
- (1) De numero Librorum Canonicorum.
- (2) De Editione Authentica Scripturarum et versionibus sacris et vernaculis.
- (3) De Authoritate Scripturae.
- (4) De Perspicuitate Scripturae.
- (5) De Interpretatione Scripturae.
- (6) De Perfectione Scripturae contra traditiones non Scriptas.

II. De Christo Controversiae.
- (1) An Christus sit αυτοθεος.
- (2) Num Creverit Sapientia.
- (3) Num sit anima perpessus dolores inferorum.
- (4) An Solum Secundum humanam naturam sit Mediator.

III. De Pontifice Romano.
- (1) An Ecclesiae Regimen sit monarchicum.
- (2) An Ecclesiae monarchia in Petro constituta fuerit.
- (3) Fueritne Petrus ecclesiae Rom. Episcopus.
- (4) Petro ne Papa in Primatu Successerit.
- (5) An Papa sit Antichristus.
- (6) An Papa possit errare in fide et doctrina.
- (7) An possit Papa leges ecclestiasticas condere quae obligent conscientias.
- (8) An solum Papae Christus jurisdictionem ecclesiasticam immediate aliis vero Episcopis et Presbyteris mediate contulerit.
- (9) An habeat Papa protestatem temporalem.

IV. De Conciliis.
- (1) Utrum sint necessario cogenda concilia.
- (2) A quo sint cogendo.
- (3) Ex quibus hominibus constent.
- (4) Quantam authoritatem habeant.
- (5) Quis in conciliis summus praeses esse debeat.
- (6) An sint supra Papam.
- (7) Utrum errare possint.

V. De Ecclesia Militante.

(1) Ubi quaeritur, quid sit ecclesia catholica et ex quo hominium genere constet.
(2) Qualis sit visibilis an invisibilis.
(3) An deficere possit.
(4) An errare possit.
(5) Quae sint notae verae visibilis ecclesiae.
(6) An Romana ecclesia sit vera Christi ecclesia visiblis.
(7) Quam protestatem et authoritatem habeat ecclesia.

VI. De Mediis Ecclesiae Membris, hoc est, Clericis quorum alii seculares alii regulares.

(1) Quaeritur hic primo de electione et gradu ministrorum.
(2) An Ministerio calibatus sit necessario annexus.
(3) An Ministri sint exempti a jugo seculari.
(4) De consiliis evangelicis.
(5) De votis, de solitudine, de habitu, et labore monachorum et de horis canonicis ; hic disseritur de decimis.
(6) De infirmis.

VII. De Membris Ecclesiae Infirmis. (*a*) laicis in quorum numero sunt etiam reges et imperatores ut volunt pontificii.

(1) Hic quaeritur (*a*) utrum cura religionis spectat ad magistratum.
(2) Utrum heriticos morte punire possit.
(3) Utrum a Papa excommunicari et ad.
(4) An leges civiles obligent conscientiam.

VIII. De Ecclesia in Purgatorio.

(1) An sit purgatorium Limbus patrum et puerorum.
(2) An animae in purgatorio possint mereri et prose satisfacere.
(3) An ecclesiae suffragia (*a*) preces lachrymae luctus elemosinae missae, defunctis prosint.
(4) De merito et ritibus sepulturae.

IX. De Ecclesia Triumphante.

(1) *a* Ubi quaeritur (1) de Angelorum hierarchia.
b An singulis hominibus duo sint attributi angeli unus bonus qui servet alter malus qui cruciet.
c An Angeli sint adorandi et invocandi.
(2) *a* De Sanctis ubi, de Sanctorum Canonizatione.
b De Sanctorum invocatione.
c De Sanctorum reliquiis, imaginibus, templis, festis.....conubiis.

X. De Sacramentis in. . . .

(1) Ubi quaeritur (*a*) Quid sit sacramentum.
(2) De sacramentorum necessitate.
(3) Quis sit legitimus minister sacramentorum.
(4) An sacramenta conferaut gratium ex opere operatio.
(5) Quomodo differant vestris et novi Testamenti Sacramenta.
(6) Quot sint sacramenta.
(7) An ceremoniae receptae quae tum alius tum potisimum in sacramentis adhibentur quarum aliae in vestitu et ornatu aliae in actione et gestu consistunt sine gravi peccato omitti possint.

XI. De Baptismo.

(1) Ubi quaeritur (*a*) Utrum qui moriuntur sine baptismo servari possint.
(2) Utrum laici aut feminae baptisare possint.
(3) Utrum Johnnis et Christi baptismus idem sit et unus.
(4) De ritibus et ceremoniis in baptismo.
(5) De baptismi efficatia.

XII. De Caena Domini.

(1) Ubi (*a*) de transubstantiatione.
(2) De Sacrificio Missae,
(3) De communione sub una specie.
(4) An Eucharistia sit sacrum extra usum.
(5) De pane azimo et vino aqua temperato.
(6) An corpus Christi, possit esse in diversis locis simul.
(7) De sacramentorum adoratione.

XIII. De 5 Spuriis Sacramentis.

(1) Nempe De confirmatione, paenitentia, ubi de confessione, confessione, et satisfactione, unctione ordine et Matrimonio.
(2) De indulgentiis.

XIV. De Statu hominis ante Lapsum.

(1) De imagine Dei in homine an ei naturalis . . . .
(2) An accessorius quidam et externus tantum stat . . . .
(3) De originali justicia an fuerit natura hominis status et conditio an supernaturale . . . .

XV. De Amissione Gratiae sive de statu Peccati et Miseriae ubi quaeritur.

(1) Quid sit peccatum.
(2) Ubi de originali et actuali.
(3) An omnes peccato originali nascantur inserti etiam . . . . virgo.
(4) A concupiscentia post baptismum sit peccatum.
(5) An peccatum aliquod ex se sit veniale.

XVI. De Gratia Dei et libero Arbitrio.

(1) Ubi quaeritur (*a*) De praedestinatione an Deus praedestinaverit homines propter praevisa opera.
(2) An aliquis de sua praedestinatione et electione certus esse possit.

XVII. De libero arbitrio quaeritur.

(1) An hominis conversae partim gratiae Dei partim libero arbitrio sit tribuenda.
(2) An homo faciendo quod in se est mereatur gratiam Dei ex congruo.
(3) An liberum arbitrium cooperetur gratiae Dei.
(4) An in notibus spiritualibus non ablatum aut amissum sed tantum infirmatum sit.

The Number of Kirks within the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie is Fourtein.

The names of the Kirks of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie with the order that they keepe in their excerciseing is thus :—

Kirkcaldie, Kingorn, Burntiland, Auchtertoole, Auchterdirran, Ballingrie, Portmooke, Kinglessie, Leslie, Markinche, Kennoquhie, Skunie, Weyms, Dysart. 14 in all.

THAIR STEIPENDS.

In Primis.—The locall steipend of Kirkcaldie is 320 punds in money; item, a chalder bear, a chalder oats, 4 bolls wheate.

Kingorn is 400 merks, 300 merks of viccerage, a chalder bear, a chalder oats.

Burntisland is 800 merks.

Auchtertule is 400 merks and of viccerage 100 merks.

Auchterdirran is 33 bolls victuall whereof 12 barlie, rest meal, 470 merks.

Kinglessie is four hundreth merks, 2 chalder bear, viccerage 60 lbs.

Ballingrie is 500 merks, 1 chalder victuall.

Portmooke is 400 merks, 40 bolls victuall, viccerage 17 lbs.

Leslie is 790 merks.

Markinche is 8 chalder victuall—half barlie half meal; item, 200 merks.

Kennoquhie is 61 bolls meale, barlie 14 bolls, wheate 5 bolls.

Skunie is fyve chalder seven bolls victuall, whereof 20 bolls bear, four bolls wheate, the rest meal, and of viccerage 40 lbs.

Weyms is eight hundreth threescoir elevin merks.

Dysert is 10 chalder victuall—third part barlie, 2 part meal; item, ane hundreth lbs.

At Dysert, the 15th day of April 1630, being the first day of meitting of the Presbytrie eftr the last synodall assemblie in St. Androis upon the 6 day of the said month.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown excercised and Mr John Chalmer notted text handled from the 21 verss of the 4 chapt. to the Gallats. to the 24 verss—Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Andro Michelson was ordained to mak the nixt day.

Compeirit Patrik Murray of Williamstowne and John Sinclair of Balgrigie compleaning upon George Arnett in Kapilldre for wrangeous possession of ane rowme in the Kirk of Auchterdirran whereunto (as they alledgit) they had undoubtit right. The matir continewit to the nixt day and Georg Arnett ordained to be sowmonit thairto.

Compeirit Andro Gibb, braboner in Dysert, compleaning that the ministers of Dysert had causit stay his proclaming for mariage with Margaret Fernons at the instance of Bessie Pearson in the Weyms, who had compeirit befoir the sessioun of Dysert affirmeing that she had his promeiss to mary hir be his grayt oath. The Presbytrie remitts them both to the ordinar Judge, viz., the Comissr. of St. Androis, and grants the space of fourtie dayes to the said Andro, and thair proclaming to be stayed in the meantyme.

Compeirit Robert Strang, servitor to the laird of Arnett, confessing him to have comitted adultrie with Agnes Black in Portmook, he being ane married man. Resaved his first injunctions. To mak his publick repentance in the Kirk of Portmook by sitting upon the place of repentance 26 Sabbaths.

David Bennett, notter in Kirkcaldie, ordained to be sowmonit to compeir befoir the Presbytrie the nixt Thursday to heir and sie decreitt pronunced against him for the alledgit wrangeouss slandering of Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert.

Kirkcaldie, *April* 22, 1630.

The whilk day the Moderator excercised without additione. The text was upon the 24 verss of the fourth chap. to the Gall. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs David Martine, David Andersone, John Chalmers, James Wilson, Thomas Powtie, John Tullus, William Nairnes, and William Spittells.

Mr Andro Michelson ordained to mak the excercise the nixt day. Mr David Anderson to add.

William Mastertone, in Dumfermeling, gave in ane petition to the Presbytrie for some support whilk was promeised him be the brethren who wer present.

Mr James Wilson, minister at Kinglessie, gave in his compt of expenss bestowed be him upon the reparation of his manss, desyreing the samyne to be insert in thair Presbytrie buik and extractit that these moneyes myt be refundit to him be his successor, extending in the haill to the sowme of thrie hundreth and fourtie ane pounds. Ordaines the Clark to registrat and extract the samyn. Compeirit David Lindsay, in Litil Balcurvie, in the pariochin of Kennoquhie, for

alledgit playing at the futtball and caitch upon the Sabbath day, and after rebuik be his minister obstinatlie continewed in the samyne. Ordained to goe to the Sessioun of Kennoquhie and there be censured and to satisfie as John Wilkie had done who was also guiltie of the lyk fault.

Comperit Patrik Murray, of Williamstowne, and Georg Arnet, of Kapildrae, the said Patrik alledgeing he had gottin wrong be the said Georg in debarreing of him from his place in the Kirk and the said Georg pleading for his possessioun. The mater was continewed to ane visitatioun of Auchterdirran whilk shall be with the advyss of Mr John Chalmer minister thr.

Ordaines Robert French, clark of Kirkcaldie, to produce his ansers to the Moderators resons for removeing of the controverted seatt in the Kirk of Kirkcaldie *Lite Pendente* against this day fyftein dayes.

The compt of expenses bestowed upon the building and repaireing of the manss of Kinglessie be Mr James Wilson, present minister at the said Kirk.

In Primis for buildeing of the hall, ane chalmer, and ane largh houss beneath the chalmer, 36 lbs. Item for threttie nyne ell tries at aught punds the scoir to be couples and lath, 12 lbs. Item for saxtein tries to be fluireing balks, brandering and upstanders to the hall fluir above the celler, 10 lbs. 13 sh. 4d. Item for threttie daills to be fluireing to the hall, 12 lbs. Item for workmanshipp in binding of nyne cupells to the hall, and sawing of the laths to it, 6 lbs. Item, hewing of the beams and laying of the hall fluir, 4 lbs. Item for thrie hundreth nawles to putt on the lath, 24 sh. Item for tuo hundreth and ane half of fluiring nawles, 40 sh. Item for sparrs and uther timber to the hall chimney, 4 lbs. Item for timber to the windoes to the hall, 20 sh. Item for six dealls to the turnpyk yett and celler durr, 40 sh. Item for cruiks, bands and nawles to the yett and celler durr, 6 lbs. Item for buildeing of ane chalmer on the north syd of the hall in mason work, 20 lbs. Item for lyme to build the hall, 24 lbs. Item for timber to be cuppells and lath to the north chalmer, 9 lbs. 12 sh. Item for timber to beams to it and lath, 4 lbs. 13 sh. 4d. Item for tuentie four dealls to be fluiring to the said chalmer, 9 lbs. 12 sh. Item for tuo hundreth nawles to the lath thairof, 19 sh. Item for timber to the laigh chalmer windoes, 30 sh. Item for four daills to be durrs in the laigh chalmer, 32 sh. Item for the lintells, upstanders, and sparrs to chimney thairof, 19 sh. Item for cruiks and bands and nawles to the durrs thairof and staunchers and nawles and bands to the windoes, 6 lbs. Item, for glassin windoes to the hall and chalmers, 12 lbs. Item, for timber to be windoe cases to the north chalmer, 4 lbs. Item, for workmanshipp, cuppells, and sawing of lath, 4 lbs. 3 sh. and 4d. Item, for heweing of the beams and layeing the fluir thereof, 4 lbs. Item, for making of the windoe kases, to hall and chalmers, 4 lbs. Item, for slaitts and workmanshipp to the too fall chalmer, 18 lbs. Item, for timber to the rufe of the said chalmer, 30 sh. Item, for fyve daills, and three tries to beams and lofteing to the said chalmer, 3 lbs. 4 sh. Item, for ane hundreth nawles to the lath thairof, 8 sh. Item, for half ane hundreth nawles to the fluir thairof, 8 sh. Item, for buildeing of ane stabill, and ane barn, and ane brewhouss, and haill dyks about the cloiss and

yairds, and for winning of the stones thairto, 40 lbs. Item, for fyve tries to the stable, 40 sh. Item, for timber to the barn, 3 lbs. Item, for dovatts in casting and leading them to the haill buildeings, 20 lbs. Item, for tuentie daills to be ten durrs within the houss, and to uther service housses within the clois, 8 lbs. Item, for bands and cruiks to the said ten durrs, 9 lbs. Item, for four hundreth nawles to the said durrs, 32 sh. Item, for threettein locks to threettein durrs, 6 lbs. Item, for ane cuppil, and timber to the brewhous, 40 sh. Item, to Umqll Georg Ramsay, although that he and his father had dimolished the haill building that was for that present by takeing away the haill durrs, and durr cheiks, with their cruiks and windoes. *Summa* of the haill is 341 lbs. Whilk haill building and reparation was apprysed be honest craftesmen and uthers, before divers famous witness and for the more verefication thir presents wer subscrybit be the said Mr James Wilson, minister at Kinglessie, *sic subscribitur*. Mr J. Wilson, mininster of God's Word at Kinglessie.

KIRK DYSERT, *April* 29, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelson exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs David Martine, David Anderson, John Chalmer, James Wilson, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, Rob Douglas.

Mr John Chalmer ordained to exercise the next day. Mr David Anderson to add. Text vers. 26, chap. 4, Gallat.

Doctor Monroe compeiring desyred earnestlie of the brethren that they wald be cairfull of the contribution for the Bishop of Ross for defraying of his Charges at Court for doeing the Kirks affairs.

They all who wer present promised thair diligence and ordained the brethren who wer absent to be advertised to be present the nixt day for that effect, as also to tak some courss for the better establishing of the excercise in tyme comeing.

Ordains Nicoll Moreiss, slaitter in Dysert, to mak his publick repentance in Sack cloath two dayes in Kircaldie and two days in Dysert, for slanderouss behaviour of adultrie with Margart Halkhead in Kircaldie, whom he hes contract, having ane wyff liveing of his owen.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 6, 1630.

The whilk day Mr David Anderson exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, Frederik Carmichael, John Tullus, William Spittell.

Mr David Martine ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr Thomas Powtie to add. Text, vers. 27, chap. 4, ad Gall.

The brethren promeiss thair diligence anent the B. of Ross. Desires the brethren to be cairfull to bring thair moneyes for interteyneing the bursar of Theologie, Mr George Gillespie. Mr John Tullus haveing dimittet his place of Clerkshipp to the Presbytrie, they mak choise of Mr James Miller to suplie that place, and ordaines him to caus mak ane new Buik for the Presbytrie, the former being alreddie filled up.

David Johnstoun, collector of the moneyes for the relief of those gentelmen who had thair lands overflowed with the moss, compeirit and desyred the brethren to be cairfull for the collecting of the samyne, and to have thair anser. They promiss dilligence, and desyres him to deall with Mr William Spittell, that he wald gett the moneyes that ar alredie collect for that use against this day fiftein dayes, and to be cairful in his absence for collecting of the rest.

Nicol Moreiss continewed to the nixt day.

Ordaines Robert French and these who hes adoe with the controverted seat in Kirkcaldie to bring thair anser to the Moderator. Resones for removing of the samyne *Lite Pendente*, uther wayes not to be hard thairefter.

Mr Alex. Scrimgeor, minister of Kingorn, compleaned upon some of his parishioners who had played at the futball upon the groond of Balmowto upon the Sabbath day.

Ordains that one or two of the Brethren shall goe to the Laird of Balmowto and desyre him that he wald tak order that no such thing be done in time comeing, and for that effect nominats the Moderator and one with him.

DYSERT, *May* 13, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Georg Fogo expectant exercised for Mr David Martin without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs Alexr. Scrimgeor, David Martin, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Robert Cranstoune.

Mr Andro Lawmonth ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr Thomas Powtie to add. Text, vers 29, cap. 4, ad Gall.

The Moderator declaired that he had gone to the Laird of Balmowto who promised that thair suld be no futballing in tyme to come.

Ordaines Mr Andro Fairfull and Mr James Powtie to be adverteised to be present the nixt day, utherwayes to be charged thairefter.

Diligence used anent the Bishop of Ross, his moneyes, as also for these whois lands wer covered with the moss.

Georg Mowbray and his wyff to be censured for not communicating.

Diligence used anent the provision for the Bursary of Theologie.

Compeirit Robert French who gave in his anser to the Moderators reasons for removeing of the controverted seatt of Kirkcaldie whilk the Moderator tuik to peruse againe the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 20.

Mr Andro Michelson exercised for Mr Andro Lawmonth without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs Alexr. Scrimgeor, David Martin, David Anderson, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, Frederik Carmichell, Robert Cranstown, John Tullus.

The exercise the nixt day lyes upon the Kirk of Lesslie, Mr Andro Lawmonth ordained to add. Text, ver. 29.

Compeirit Mr Andro Fairfull scharplie rebuikit for resaveing of Mr James Powtie from the stoole of repentance for fornication, he not yit ane actuall minister, and the said Mr James being ane member of the Presbytrie.

Diligence used anent the Bishop of Ross moneyes.

Ordaines all these who hes collectit moneyes for the relief of these gentlemen whois lands wer overthrowen be the moss to delyver the samyne, and these who hes not yit collect to use thair diligence for collecting.

Ordaines Mr David Martin to be present the nixt day to give his advice anent the setting of ane seatt in the Kirk of Auchtertule.

DYSERT, *May* 27.

The whilk day Mr Andro Fairfull exercised, Mr Andro Lawmonth added. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Mr Frederik Carmichael ordained to mak the next day, Mr Andro Fairfull add. Text, Gall. 4, 31.

Absents—Mrs Alexr Scrimgeor, Doctor John Michelson, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Frederik Carmichell, John Tullus, William Nairn, William Spitell.

Resaved from Mr James Wilsone 10 lbs., collectit be him for the relief of these who had thair lands overflowed be the moss, resaved be Mr James Symson. Ordaines further diligence to be used be the rest.

Replyes to the ansers given in be Robert French for not removeing of the controverted seatt in the Kirk of Kirkcaldie lite pendente given in be the Moderator to be anserit be Robert French the nixt day.

Remitts Mr James Powtie to the nixt day. Diligence used for the B. of Ross.

Compeirit Agnes Balmannow compleanning that her sonnes seatt in the Kirk of Auchtertule was removed and so they dispossessed thairof. Ordained to give in her complaint in wreatt the next day.

Mr John Chalmer by his letter proponed to the Presbytrie whidder a woman being contractit and thryse proclaimed, whose former husband being nyne years since absent foorth of the countrie and affirmed to be dead be these with whom he sailed may be lawfully maryed.

It was ansered that aither the woman should bring ane sufficient testimoniall from the skipper and companie with whom he sailed of the certaintie of his death or utherwayse hir marriage to be stayed.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 3, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Frederick Carmichell exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Mr John Tullus ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr William Nairn to add. Text, Gall. 5, 1.

Absents—Doctor John Michelson, Mrs John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, William Nairn.

Diligence used for the maintenance of the Bursar of Theologie.

Compeirit Mr James Powtie ordained to humble himself, and acknowledge his sinn of fornication befor the brethren whilk the said Mr James in humble maner obeyed and gave the brethren satisfaction and was absolved be tham in the Presbytrie.

10 lbs 10 sh. delyvered be Mr Frederik Carmichell collectit at the Kirk of Kennoquhie for them whose lands wer covered with the moss, resaved be David Johnstone, collector.

Delyverit be Master James Symeson, minister of Kirkcaldie, fyftie punds that was collectit for the forsaid use, farther diligence to be used be the rest thair anent.

Mr Alex. Scrimgeor, minister at Kingorn, craved the Presbyteries advysse anent Thomas Miller in Grang Mill, who haveing transgressed the Sabbath and being thrie severall tymes cited privatlie to compeir befor the Sessioun to mak satisfaction thairfor, as also thrie tymes publicklie, yet remaines obstinat and will not obey. They advyse him to proceid against him in the process of excommunication.

Mr Thomas Bigger, reider at Kingorn, reported that he had mett with the said Thomas, who promised to obey. Mr Thomas Bigger compleaned upon Mr Alex. Scrimgeor for wrangous deleying of his steipend from him. The Presbytrie desyres tham both to remove that they might confer anent that mater. The said Mr Alex. wold not remove himself bot against his will (as he protested), being urged be the brethren thairto, untill the tyme that his sessioun wer hard.

The Presbytrie thinks expedient that two brethren of thair number shall goe thair for that effect, and thairfor ordaines Mr Robert Douglas and Mr John Chalmer to goe to Kingorn upon the Sabbath nixt, and confer with the Sessioun thair for some course to be taken thair anent, and ordaines the said Mr. Alex. to mak intimation thairof upon the Sabbath befor noone, that the elders and deacons may convein frequently for that purpose, and ordaines Mr George Fogo to preach for Mr John Chalmer the said day.

DYSERT, *Junii* 10.

The whilk day Mr John Tullus exercised, Mr Wm. Nairn added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr William Nairn ordained to exercise the nixt day. Mr William Spittell to add. Text, vers 3, chap. 5, ad Gall.

Absents—Masters Alex. Scrimgeor, David Martin, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, Frederik Carmichell, Robert Cranstone, Robert Douglas.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 17, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Wm. Nairn exercised, Mr James Miller added, who is appoyntit to mak the nixt day, Mr William Spittall to add. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs David Martin, David Anderson, Thomas Powtie, Frederik Carmichell, Robt. Cranstone, William Spittall.

Mr Robert Douglas reported his diligence from Kingorn with Mr John Chalmer, viz.—That they with the Sessioun of Kingorn had concluded that Mr Thomas Bigger should have whatsumever penalties as ar presentlie in the Kirk box of Kingorn as ane part of that somme whilk is addebtit to him till he get the rest, and that the said Mr Thomas should declair be his Sessioun buik what is penalties, and what utherwayes that he may give his haill penalties as said is.

Mr Thomas Bigger proposed be way of question whidder or not a man might be dispossest of any Kirk benefice whilk he hes brukit for the space of fyftein or sextein years peaceablie, utherwayes than be order of the Law. It was anserit—negative.

The Presbytrie advyses Mr Alex. Scrimgeor to goe to the Archbishop of St Androis, and deal with him to tak some guid courss for setling the confusions of the Kirk of Kinghorn.

Compeirit Patrik Murray of Williamstown, John Sinclair of Balgrigie, and frielie submitts the mater anent the decision of the controversie betwixt them and Georg Arnett of Kapildrae to the Presbytrie to do thairin as they think meitt.

Ordaines to wreatt to Mr John Chalmer anent the visitatioun of his Kirk for setling of the mater forsaid, as also for furnishing some rowmes for seatts to those that wantit. The said Mr John Chalmer compeirit and promeisses so soone as he shall have done with his communion to advertise the Presbytrie what day they shall come to the visitatioun.

Anent Thomas Miller for breakeing of the Sabbath and disobedience of the sessioun of Kingorn, the Presbytrie thinks meitt that he be brocht before the congregation publicklie upon ane Sabbath befor noone, efter sermon, and that both his break of the Sabbath and his contumacie be layed to his charge, and he maid to confess the samyne and crave pardon of God and the congregation.

Robert French compeirand be his wreatt passed from further compeirance in the action tuiching the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie in respect that Georg Halkhead, yownger, to whom that seatt belongs, does not possess the samyne nor any having warrand from him and James Law, yownger, for whom the said Robert hes hitherto pleaded (being then minor) and now of perfect age, and may plead for himself. The Presbytrie (notwithstanding of the premisses) ordaines the said Robert French to be sowmonit the nixt day to heir interloquitor pronounced in the said mater with certification they will proceid.

DYSERT, *Junii* 24th, 1630.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Andro Mitchelson ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr Wm. Spittel to add. Text, 4, 5, 6, Gall.

Absents—Mrs Alexr. Scrimgeor, David Martin, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Frederik Carmichel, William Spittell, Robert Douglas.

Compeirit Agnes Blaik, in the congregation of Portmook, confessit adultrie with Robert Strang in Arnett, resaved her first injunctions according to the order of the Kirk.

Continews the pronounceing of the interloquitor in the action of the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie until Robert French and all parties having interest in the said mater, be sowmonit to heir the samyne pronounced, and to that effect ordaines Mr James Moir to sowmond them all with certification.

KIRKCALDIE, *July* 1, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelson exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs David Martin, Thomas Powtie, Frederik Carmichel, Robert Cranstown. Mr William Spittell excused the last dayes absence and want of addition, in respect he was over the water. Allowed. Ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr Mungo Law to add. Text, vrs. 9, cap. 5, ad Gallatt. Mr John Chalmer promeises that efter his return from Edinbur he shall appoynt the day of his visitation. Compeirit William Tennent, and gave in farther resons anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie why it should not be removed *Lite Pendente*.

The Presbytrie continews the pronouncing of thair interloquitor to this day fyftein dayes, in hope to agree the parties peaceably, and ordaines thir last resons to be sein and hard be the Presbytrie this day aught dayes.

DYSERT, *July* 8, 1630.

The whilk day Mr William Spittell exercised. Mr Mungo Law added, who is appoyntit to mak the nixt day, Mr Thomas Melvill to add. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Absents—Mrs John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Robert Cranstown, William Nairn. Text the next day begins at vrs. 10, chap. 4, add Gall.

The Moderator put the brethren in mynd of the B. of Ross moneyes.

Compeirit Margaret Reid, and resaved her first injunctions for adultrie comitted be her with Archbald Lindesay. Ordaines Thomas Miller to be sommonit to compeir befor the sessioun of Kingorn.

The Presbytrie yit continnewes the pronouncing of thair interloquitor in the mater anent the controverted seatt to this day fyftein dayes, but any further continewance and ar to advyse all that is wreatten in that mater the nixt day to that effect.

The 10 lbs. whilk Mr James Symson resaved from Mr James Wilson that was collectit for the moss, delyverit be him to David Johnstown. Desyres farther diligence of the rest.

KIRKCALDIE, *July* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit Robert Frenche desyreing that he might have the inspection of that which was wreatten last be the Moderator touching the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie whilk was denyed to him, and he with all the rest who had interest in that mater ordained to be sommonit to the nixt day to heir the interloquitor pronounced.

Compeirit William Hutchen, braboner in Kingorn, compleaning upon Mr Alex. Scrimgeor, minister thair, who will nayther suffer him to hold up his own bairn to be baptised nor yit be witness to one uther mans bairn, unles he wad quytt him 3 lbs and 5 sh. whilk the said Mr Alexander is addebtit to him, whilk the said Mr Alexander denyes, and desyres to be purged of that imputation. Both parties ar content to submitt the mater controverted betwixt them to James Bosuell of Craigincatt Mill and Mr Thomas Bigger. Mr Alexander desyres Dr John Michelson, Moderator, to be chosen overman, in caise the foirsaid tuo cannot appease the mater.

DYSERT, *July* 22, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Ordaines the parson of Dysert and Mr John Tullus, Weyms, to sowmound David Kedie in Weyms out of pulpett to compeir befor the Presbytrie upon Thursday nixt to heir himself declairit to be excommunicat for the cruell murder of Robert Beverag, indweller in Dysert. Also ordaines Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, minister at Kingorn, and Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie to sowmond Robert Lambert, indweller in Kingorn, publicklie to compeir befor the Presbytrie the nixt Thursday to heir himself decernit to be excommunicatt for the cruel murder of Thomas Dow in the paroshin of Auchterdirran.

Compeired William Tennant, Baillie of Kirkcaldie, John Colyear, and Robert Frenche thair, desyreing the Presbytrie to continew the pronounceing of thair interloquitor in the mater of the controverted seat of Kirkcaldie, desyreing that the mater may be composed friendlie alledging ane submission of the speciall parties haveing interest therein. The parties present ar all content to submitt the mater, viz., the Moderator and Georg Halkhead, elder, for themselves, and takeing burden in and upon them for Georg Halkhead, younger, and the said William Tenent, John Colyear, and Robert Frenche, for themselves, and takeing burden in and upon them for James Law, and James Colyear, and to that effect nominats Mr William Nairne, parson of Dysert, and Mr Andro Lawmonth, minister of Markinche, to meitt for the pairt of the Moderator and Georg Halkhead, younger and elder, and Mr William Spittell and Mr Frederik Carmichel for James Law and the rest of the foirnamed persons to dycyd thairintill as thay shall think most expedient, and that again this day thrie weeks.

KIRKCALDIE, *July* 29, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstoun excused his long absence from the Presbytrie by his long and sore sicknes. Excuse admittitt and allowed.

Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert, and Mr John Tullus, minister at Weyms, declaired that they had sowmonit David Kedie in Weyms publiklie out of the pulpett to compeir befoir the Presbytrie this day to heir himself decernit to be excommunicat for the slaughter of Robert Beverag. The said David called upon compeirit not; continewed in respect (as the parson reportit) he come to him being presentlie to saill furth of the countrie, and promeisses at his returne to give obedience.

DYSERT, *August* 5, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Cempeirit Robert Lambert in Kingorn being sowmonit be the minister of Kirkcaldie the last Sabbath to heir himself decernit to be excommunicatt for the slaughter of Thomas Dow: Denied the said slaughter notwithstanding the samyn is notoriouslie knowen, and can be proven be witness, as also by his present fright and seeking reconcilliation of the partie. The brethren ordaines Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, minister at Kingorn, to go to the B. of St. Androis to gett his concurrence that he may be excommunicatt, and that with all expidition.

Desyres the brethren to whom the mater of the controverted seatt was submitted to meitt in Kirkcaldie upon Tyesday nixt for settling of that business befoir the Communion thair, and desyres Mr Robert Cranstoun to advertise Messrs Andro Lawmonth and Frederik Carmichel thairof.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 12, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer wrott his excuse for his absence this day whilk was the stormie and windie wether, and desyred that his kirk myt be visited the nixt Thursday for setling the controversy of thair kirk seatts.

The Presbytrie ar content to meitt at the Kirk of Auchterdirran upon Thursday nixt for that effect, and ordaines the Clark to wreatt ane edict and send thither. Memorandum to inquire of Mr John Chalmer anent the slaughter of Thomas Dow, his parichioner, be Robert Lambert.

The decision of the controversie of the seatt of the Kirk of Kirkcaldie continewed.

Resaved be Mr William Spittell, minister at Dysert, the sowme of 27 lbs. 11 sh. from Dr John Michelson, collectit be him at the Kirk of Burntiland for the support of these who had thair lands overthrown be the moss, to be delyverit be him to David Johnstowne.

William Hutchen, in Kingorn, compleaning upon Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, minister thair, for refusing him of the cowmon benefites of the kirk, the said Mr Alexander allegit that he had ane process against him whilk hes lyen over this long while unpersowit. Ordaines the said Mr Alexander to waken the said process and to prosecute the samyn, that the said William may have the benefits of the kirk.

The Moderator appoynted to teach at the visitation of the kirk at Auchterdirran.

August 19.

The whilk day the Moderator, Doctor John Michelson, Minister at Burntiland, preached att the visitation of the Kirk of Auchterdirran, halden within the Queir of the said Kirk be Doctor John Michelson, Moderator, Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert; Mrs James Symeson and Robert Douglas, ministers att Kirkcaldie; Mr William Spittell, minister at Dysert; Mr Andro Lawmonth, minister at Markinche; Mr Frederik Carmichel, at Kennoquhie; Mr Robert Cranstown,

minister at Skunie; Mr David Anderson, minister att Balingrie, and Mr John Chalmer, minister of the said Kirk of Auchterdirren, upon the 19th day of August, the year of God 1630 years.

All things belongeing to ane ordinar visitation past by at this tyme, 1. in respect this kirk was visited befoir with the rest of the kirks; 2. in respect of the shortnes of the tyme; 3. in respect of the grait difficulties presentlie in hand.

Compeirit James Scrimgeor in name of his father Mr John Scrimgeor of Wester Bowhill, desyreing of the visitors that they wald designe ane rowme in the said kirk to his father for the lands of Wester Bowhill, in respect he is both ane Pariochiner and ane heritor Also compeired James Weyms of Muirtone, compleaning that he had gotten wrong be the brethren of the Dicks of Cartmoir, who had at thair owen hands (without any warrand) removed his seatt out of the place where it was placed be the authoritie of the Presbytrie and Sessioun, and placed thair seatt in the rowme thairof. Sir Georg Bosuell of Balgonie, Knyt, and David Bedson of Cardon, submitts themselves tuiching the mater of thair seatts alltogither frelie to the Presbytrie to doe thairunto as they shall think meitt, promeising to acquiess thairto. As also Patrik Kyninmonth of that ilk; John Sinclair, Balgrigie; and Patrik Murray, of Williamstown, his father-in-law, for his interrests; Georg Arnett, of Kapildree; James Weyms of Muirtowne; James Abercrumbie, appeirand of Strathrudie, in name of his father, John Dick, of Cartmoir, and in name of James Colvill, of Balbedie, and David Bosuell, Balmowto, for the land of Dundonald. All in one voyce submitted all maters controverted or utherwyse anent the placeing or changeing of thair seatts to the determination of the visitors thair conveined at the said Kirk for visitation thairof. The whole gentlemen being enquyred if they had anything to say to the brethren conveined, aither be complaint, information, or utherwayes, ansred they had no more to say.

So the brethren efter dismission of these gentlemen heritors, and due deiberation used anent the controverted seatt, concludes and agrees that the rowme of the seatt controverted for betwixt John Sinclair and Georg Arnett, shalbe given or assignitt to none of the said parties controvertors, bot that they shall have commodious places assigned to them in other convenient places of the Kirk.

Mr John Chalmer, minister, desyred that thair might be some cair had be the brethren and pariochiners for enlairgening of the Kirk for the better commoditie of heiring the Word. The brethren conveined appoynts this day aught dayes the 26 of this instant, to meitt againe at Auchterdirran for settleing of the controversies there, anent the settleing of thair seatts.

Auchterdirran, *August* 26, 1630

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie, viz., Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert, and Mr William Spittell, minister thair; Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, ministers at Kirkcaldie; Mr David Anderson, minister att Ballingrie; Mr Frederik Carmichel, minister at Kennoquhie; Mr Andro Lawmonth, minister at Markinche; Mr Robert Cranstown, minister at Skunnie, with Mr John Chalmer, minister at the said Kirk of Auchterdirran, conveining thair according to

the appoyntment of the last day, efter incalling upon the name of God, chose Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert, to be thair Moderator. *In Primis* the brethren ordeanes the stoole of repentance to be removed from the place where it now stands (viz., in the voyd of the wall upon the north syd of the Kirk), and to be affixed to the middest of the foir part of the Laft, as also ordeanes the seatt that now stands under it, with the seatt that stands nixt the kirk durr upon the sowth syd, both to be removed and placed at the end of the kirk, under the foir part of the Laft, and declaires the places where they stand presentlie to be voyd and emptie. (2) They assygne and appoynt the rowme controverted for be John Sinclair, of Balgrigie, and Georg Arnett, of Kapildree, for James Colvill of Balbedie, to apperteyn to him in all tyme to come.

The brethren being asked whidder it wer neidful that parties should be any further hard, it was ansered: Not. The Laird of Balmowto, younger, compeiring, craved of the brethren that he might have rowme to build ane seatt in, in respect he was both patron and heritor of the parioche. They grant to his sute as being reasonable. (3) They assigne and appoynt rowme nixt the pulpett upon the east syd whilk presentlie perteynes to the Laird of Kyninmonth, to John Sinclair, of Balgrigie, to apperteyne to him in tyme comeing. (4) They assigne and appoynt the rowme where James Colvills seatt stands for the lands of Balbedie, to Georg Arnett, of Kapildrae, to apperteyne to him in tyme comeing. (5) They assigne and appoynt the rowme of the seatt foirgainest the pulpett upon the north syd, whilk presentlie perteyns to Sir Georg Bosuell, of Balgonie, Knyt, to the yowng Laird of Balmowto. (6) They remove the Laird of Cardens seatt whilk he has for the lands of Glenistown neirer the kirk door, so that the east pairt of it shall come no further east then the east pairt of the windo that is neirest to the kirk durr, upon the sowth syd, and the gavill of it to be sett to the sowth wall, and in respect they have taine ane rowm from the Laird of Kyninmonth, they assigne and appoynt for him that piece of rowme whilk they have taken from the Laird of Carden to be eiked to his own rowme whilk is nixt adjacent to it upon the east. (7) They ordeane the seatts of Cartmoir and Muirton to be chaunged, and everie ane of them to be put in uther places as they wer of old, be the authoritie of the Presbytrie and Sessioun. Lastly, they ordeane that the seatts upon the north syd of the kirk be west the pulpet salbe chaunged thair gavells to the kirk wall, and the order of placeing of them to be thus: In the westmest place salbe placed the seatt perteyning to Wester Lochgellie, and the seatt of Cartmoir nixt it upon the east, and the Laird of Camerons befoir it, and the voyd rowme that salbe betwixt Camerons seatt and the piller, or the seatt assigniet to Balmowto, that they ordeane and appoynt to Mr John Scrimgeor, for the lands of Wester Bowhill, and ordaines all the seatts whose gavills salbe sett to the kirk walls to be of one length and one hight, that none impidement to another aither in heiring the word or seing. Finalie, if ther salbe any rowme left voyd betwixt the Laird of Cardens seatt and the kirk durr, it salbe (by the Sessioun of Auchterdirran), appoyntit for some cowmone uses, or for these who gathers the collection as they shall think meitt to dispone it.

DYSART, 2, 1630.

The whilk day the brethren considering the uncertaintie of the exercise and of want of addition in respect of the brethers absence who should exercise or add ordeanes that in tyme comeing the exercise and addition salbe layed upon the kirks as they follow in order, and that they sall fill thair place of exercise, *Vel per se vel per alium.*

The Presbytrie ordeanes Doctor John Michaelson, Moderator, Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert, and Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, ministers of Kircaldie to goe to Auchterdirran kirk the next Wednisday the 8 of this instant to put thair decreitt in execution anent the changeing or placeing of thair seatts thair, with full power to them to doe the samyn.

The Presbytrie appoynts for Mr James Miller, thair scrib, tuo shillings sterling to be payit be everie minister within the presbytrie yearlie, ane thairof at everie Assemblie, beginning the first terms payment the presbytrie day proceeding the Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 9.

The whilk day the brethren that wer sent commissioners to Auchterdirran declared thair diligence in putting the decreitt of the Presbytrie to execution in all things as they wer appoyntit, and that they putt in ane pairt of John Sinclaires seatt in the rowme asignit to him be east the pulpitt whereby they gave him possession thairof as also putt in ane foorme in the rowme asigned to Mr John Scrimgeor and so gave him possession thairof, and markit the rowm thairof upon the wall to be betwixt the widdest of the bowells upon the north wall and the pillar upon the east.

As also markit the rowme for the Laird of Kyninmonth upon the wall that he should come no further west then the east syde of the windo neirest the durr.

William Tenent gave in ane submission drawn up betwixt the Moderator and parties to whom the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie belongs to be subscribit be him for himself and Georg Hawkhead and shews that they wer willing to subscrybe the samyn.

DYSERT, 16, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . James Scrimgeor compeirand compleand that James and Robert Abercrombies laufull sones to Andro Abercrombie of Strathrudie had come to the Kirk of Auchterdirran the last Sabbath of the morneing, and had removed the foorme placed be the commissioners, sent be the Presbytrie in the rowme assignit to Mr John Scrimgeor be them for the lands of Wester Bowhill.

The Presbytrie ordeanes them to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit James and Robert Abercrombies. Demandit anent afoirsaid complaint confessit the foorme was removed bot deneyed that they aither did it themselfs nor yit knew the doing of it bot grantit that they come to the kirk of purpose to have removed the samyne bot could not gett into the kirk, bot goeing to ane buriall befoir thair returneing it was removed and they allowed the doing of it.

The Presbytrie continews to deal any further in the mater till they be further advisit and in the meantyme ordeanes the clerk to extract thair decreitt given anent the said seatt and to give it to James Scrimgeor to give it to his father. The Presbytrie refers the mater for excommunicatioun of Robert Lambert in Kingorn and David Keddie in the Weyms murtherers to the Synodell Assemblie.

DYSERT, *September* 30, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit James Scrimgeor desyreing that the Presbytrie wald direct some of thair number to goe to Auchterdirran, and place his fathers seatt in the rowme that they had assignit to him at the visitatioun. They appoynt Mr William Spittell, minister at Dysert, and Mr James Miller to goe thither and place the samyn.

Compeirit Margaret Cowie adultress with John Brumsyd, desyreing that hir bairne might be baptized, the Presbytrie ordaines Mr William Nairn, parson of Dysert, to baptize the said bairne upon cautioun that she shall mak hir repentance accordeing to the order of the kirk. The said Mr William Nairn shew to the Presbytrie that he was myndit to goe to London to the King for the setling of the steipend of the Kirk of Dysert, in respect it was licklie to be wronged and lestened be the valuatioun of the teynds of the parioche, craveing thair favour and consent to the said jorney, whilk the brethren present willinglie grantit.

October 1, 1630.

The whilk day, Mr William Spittell, minister at Dysert, and Mr James Miller went to the kirk at Auchterdirran, accordeing to the ordinance of the Presbytrie and there placed in the seatt belonging to Mr John Scrimgeor, for the lands of Wester Bowhill, into the rowme appoyntit for it be the Presbytrie, in all poynts as was ordained.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 14, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill produced ane letter from my Lord Bishop of St Androis, desyreing the brethren to try the said Mr Thomas his qualificatioun for the Ministrie of Kinglessie, as fellow helper with Mr James Wilson, minister thair.

The brethren appoynts him to teach the cowmon head, *De Consiliis Evangelicis* this day fyftein dayes for his tryell.

Ordaines Mr Thomas Powtie to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath and teach thair.

Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Robert Cranstown shew that the B. in the Assemblie desyred the Moderator to be myndful of the B. of Ross.

DYSERT, *October* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Powtie ordained to go to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to teach, in respect the place was utherwayes supplied the last Sabbath.

Compeirit John Findrach in Wester Weyms, craveing that he might have ane testimoniall to be maryed with Isobell in Anstruther, with whom he is contract, notwithstanding he had contracted ane Janet Spens befoir, who had borne ane bairne to him.

The Presbytrie ordaines the said John Findrach, to agree with the said Janet Spens by takeing with her bairne (whilk he denyes) and getting hir gudwill, and then to get ane testimonial to be maryed. Mr Fredrik Carmichel declared to the Presbytrie that ane Janet Bell in Kennoquhie, haveing allegit ane promeiss of mariage upon Henrie Miller in Banbeth, and the tuo being conveinit together under purpose of agreement, the said Janet alledges that he lay with hir then, and that she is with bairne aganie to him of new, whilk the said Henrie denyes. Ordaines the said Henrie to compeir befoir the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 28, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill taught the cowmone head *De Conciliis Evangelicis* and susteyned disputationes thereupon whilk hee was verie weill allowed and for further tryell they appoynt the said Mr Thomas to teach the nixt Thursday in Dysert Popular Doctrin and assignes to him for text, Heb. 12 vr. 14, follow peace. Absents—the Moderator, Mrs David Anderson, John Chalmers, John Tullus, William Spittell. Ordeaned Mr Andrew Lawmonth to go to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath and teach thair.

DYSERT, *November* 4, 1630.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill, preached upon the text appoynted to him. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr William Spittell excused his absence be prevous bussines over the water and in Stirveling: both accepted and allowed.

The Presbytrie gives thair approbation to Mr Thomas Melvill, and ar content with his tryells alreadie given and ar content to give him thair testimonial whilk they ordeane thair Clerk to wreatt. Ordeanes Mr Andro Lawmonth to goe to Kinglessie and preach the nixt Sabbath in respect he had disapoynted them the last day.

Ordaines Robert Corss and Kathren Ireland to be removed out of the bounds of the Presbytrie who liveing scandalouslie togither and not being able to obtein the benefitt of mariage heir in respect the womans husband was living in Ireland went to the borders of Ingland and there wer maryed. Mr Robert Cranstown delyverit 10 merks to Mr Georg Gillespie the Presbytries bursar of Theologie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit Robert Strang in the Parochin of Port mook adulterer with Agnes Blaik and resaved his last injunctions for his said adultrie: remittit to his ordinar pastor.

Mr Fredrik Carmichel excused his last dayes absence whilk was acceptit.

Henrie Miller in Banbeth and Janet Bell in Kennoquhie being sowmonit: called, compeirit not: ordeaned to be sowmonit again to the nixt day pro 2. Mr James Symeson ordained to go to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preach.

Compeirit Elspet Keir in Wester Babarton accused for resaveing James Law and Kathren Michell his spous to duell in hir grownd without a testimoniall: ansrit they brought ane testimoniall from Dysert. The brethren accepts of hir ansr.

DYSERT, *November* 18, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie produced ane testimoniall from Cuper where he had past his first tryells desyreing that he might be admittit upon ordinarie exercise, and have libertie to supplie his fathers place in preaching for him in respect of his weaknes and submitts himself to be tryed. The Presbyterie assignes to him cowmonehead *De Judice Controversiarum* to be handlit in Latin whilk he accepts.

Motion maid anent the handling of the cowmonhead. Compeirit Sara Anderson in Dysert trelaps in fornication: gravelie rebuked: ordained to sit nyne Sabbaths upon the place of publick repentance. Compeirit Janet Grant ane straunger come from Aberdein desyred to have ane bairne baptised whilk she had brought furth in Dysert. The Presbytrie refuses altogither.

Compeirit Henri Miller, in Banbeth, for allegitt getting of ane bairne with Janet Bell whilk the said Henrie constantlie denyes (notwithstanding the said Janet affirms it): ordained to purge himself be his grytt oath both in the Kirks of Kennoquhie and Skunie efter that the woman hes sworn solemlie him to be her bairnes father in his presence publicklie. Mr John Tullus reported that one Janet Dunkesone in the Weyms being quadrilapse in fornication hes runn away and left hir bairne in the kirkyaird of Wemys haveing also exposed tuo befoir. The presbytrie advyses him to declair the mater to the Justice Generall.

Order to be taken anent the handleing of the cowmonhead.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 25, 1630.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Presents—onlie the tuo ministers of Dysart and Kirkcaldie. The parson of Dysert ordained to exercise the nixt day. Mr John Tullus to add. Text Gall. Cap. 5, last verss.

The parson of Dysert ordained to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preache.

DYSERT, *December* 9, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Ordaines Eupham Gib, in the Parochin of Kinglessie, to be sowmonit out of the pulpetts of Dysert and Kinglessie, to compeir befoir the Presbytrie for the cruell murther of Elspett Whytt. Ordaines Mr William Spittell to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preache.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 2, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Effie Gib being sowmonit out of the pulpetts of Dysert and Kinglessie the last Sabbath to compeir befoir the Presbytrie this day for the cruell murther of Elspett Whytt, called: compeired not: ordeaned to be sowmonit the nixt Sabbath in bothe the foirsaid kirks pro. 2.

Mr John Chalmer ordained to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preach thair.

DYSERT, 16, 1630.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie gave in his theses to be disput upon the nixt day, and is to handell the cowmon head *De Judice Controversiarum*

Mr Thomas Melvill produced ane letter from my Lord Archbishop of St Androis, scheweing that he had given him ordinatioun to the kirk of Kinglessie, desyreing the brethren to appoynt ane of thair number to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preache thair, and to resave the said Mr Thomas, minister thair, fellowhelper with Mr James Wilson. The brethren appoynts Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie, to goe thair the nixt Sabbath to preache at the resaveing of the said Mr Thomas, also they appoynt Mr Thomas Powtie, minister at Leslie, and Mr William Spittell, minister at Dysert, to concur with him.

Memorandum to advyse anent the handling cowmon head. Henrie Trail, haberdasher, recomendit be the Presbytrie to thair severall congregatiouns to be supportit be them. Effie Gibb being sowmonit, called: compeirit not: ordanied to be sowmonit in the foirsaid kirks the nixt Sabbath, pro. 3.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 30.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie handled the cowmon head adjuned to him in Latin. Doctrin censured and allowed. Disputationes continewed to the nixt day, and he ordeaned to add to the exercise. The exercise was intermitted the last day in respect of the buriall of Mr James Wilson, minister at Kinglessie. Absents—Mrs David Martin, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, John Tullus. Mr James Symeson and Mr William Spittell declared thair diligence in resaveing Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie.

Mr James Wyseman and Mr John Malcolme presented themselfs befoir the Presbytrie, offering themselfs to be tryed anent thair qualification for the School of Kirkcaldie. The brethren desyres Mr Robert Dougles to goe to the Baillies and try anent thair mynd concerning thair tryells, whider or not they wald submitt to the choise of the tuo men to the Presbytrie, who compeiring with thair Clerk ansered they wold reserve thair choise of the men to themselves, and therefoir the brethren advysed them to condiscend upon the man whom they wald chuse, and then they suld try his qualificatioun: whereupon they acquiesed.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 6, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie sustenied disputationes upon his former dayes *theses*, and was allowed. Isobell Dick, in Weyms, being urged by

My Lord of Wemys to remove hir self furth of his bownds, requysted the brethren both this day and the foirmer by hir humbl pettition, that they wald deall with my Lord of Wemys to suffer hir to remaine, in respect she had brought ane testimoniall from Leyth, shaweing that she had lived honestlie thair, except in the mater of slander with Patrik Mackenzie, whereunto thair was nothing proven against hir as hir testimoniall bears. For anser, the brethren sayes they can doe nothing till Mr John Tullus be present.

DYSERT, *Januar* 13.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Absents—the Moderator, Mrs David Martin, Alexander Scrimgeor, John Chalmer, Thomas Powtie, Andro Lawmonth, Fredrick Carmichel, Robert Cranstown, John Tullus. Mr Harie Wilkie ordeaned to teach popular doctrin in Kirkcaldie the nixt day. Text, Heb. 4, v. 10.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 19, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethern conveined assignes to Mr Harie Wilkie ane uther text to handell the nixt day in Dysert in respect of the raritie of the present number, viz., John, Cap. 21, v. 15. Mr Robert Cranstown excused his last two dayes absence being in Edin. Accepted.

DYSERT, *Februar* 3, 1631

The whilk day . . . . . The brethern are content to give to Mr Harie Wilkie thair testimoniall of approbatioun of that whilk they have hard of him.

Mr William Spittell excused Mr Frederik Carmichells last dayes absence whilk was accepted. Mr Georg Fogo ordained to exercise the nixt day. Mr Mungo Law to add. Text, gall. 6, v. 6. There was no exercise the last Thursday in respect of the tempestuosnes of the weather so that the brethren could not meitt.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 10, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator produced ane letter from Doctor Munro desyreing the brethren to appoynt ane day when they wald pay that money appoynted for the B. of Ross; they promise dilligence bot wold appoynt no day. Mr Frederik Carmichel shew that Henrie Miller in Banbeth had confessit fornicatioun with Janet Bell in Kennoquhie, and had acknowledgit hir bairne to be his, demandeing anent the forme of his satisfactioun in respect he was maryed half ane year and more befoir the slander thereof arose. Thair anser is that he shall mak him sitt upon the stoole of repentance ane day, and so absolve him and the woman to satisfie as ane cowmown fornicatrix. The said Mr Frederik also delated one John Reid in the congregation of Markinche for abuseing one of his elders collecting at the kirk durr of Kennoquhie upon the sabbath day. Ordeaned to be sowmonit the nixt day. Motion anent the Bursar of Theologies maintenance,

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichel sent his excuse, viz., that he was troublit with the gutt. Accepted. John Read in Markinche called, compeirit not. Ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro. 2. Mr Robert Douglas appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, Mr Mungo Law, toadd. Text, Gall. 6, v. 7.

DYSERT, *Februar* 24, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit John Reid from Balcurvie in the congregation of Markinche accused for abuseing ane of the elders of Kennoquhie collecting at the kirk durr upon ane sabbath befoir noone denyed the samyn.

The sam elder, viz., James Roger also compeired affirmed the samyn in his face and offerit to prove it be witnesses and desynit them, viz., David Miller alias person John Selkirk, William Miller, David Berrie who ar ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day and the said John sowmonit *apud acta* to be present thereto.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 3, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill demandtit anent tuo persons that wer contractit in his congregation of Kinglessie whereof ane uther woman claimes the man aledging promeiss of mariage upon him. The Presbytrie remitts them to the commissr. of St Androis, and graunts the woman fyftein dayes to intend process against the man. The Moderator demandit if the Presbytrie wald give thair testimoniall to Mr Andro Michaelson his sone of his literatur and qualificatioun for the Ministrie. They ar content to give it, and ordaines the clerk to wreatt it against the nixt day.

March 10, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Douglas gave aught punds to give to Mr William Spittell to give to Mr Robert Cranstown for the B. of Ross whereof the said Mr Robert granted the resaitt.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 17.

Mr David Martin exercised, Mr John Chalmer added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Absent—Mr John Tullus. Mr David Anderson ordained to exercise the nixt day, Mr Thomas Melville to add. Text, Gall. 6, 10.

Mr John Chalmer excused his long absence from the Presbytrie, in respect of his continuall infirmitie and weaknes, and ill wether : excuse, accepted. The Moderator demandit anent the B. of Ross when they wald give him moneyes : they ansred, when they gott thair stipends they wald give it him. The Moderator delyverit aught punds for the Kirk of Burntiland to the Bursar of Theologie : resaved be Mr Georg Gilespie, present bursar. The brethren advyseing anent some part of Scriptur to be the grownd of thair exercise efter that they have endit this epistle to the Gallatians, they mak chuse of the Gospel according to S. John.

Compeired John Selkirk, David Berrie, David Miller, witnesses in the action persewit be James Rodger in the Burns of Kennoquhie, against John Read, in Balcurvie: admitted and sworn: depond nothing to the purpose.

The partie offers him to prove it yit be uther witnesses. They give him this day aught dayes to prove the samyn, and sowmonds the said John, *apud acta*, to be present the said day.

DYSERT, *March* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . James Rodger and John Read appoyntit to be present the nixt day, in respect no witnesses compeired.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 31, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Lawmonth gave in *theses* and is to handell the cowmown head, *De Scriptura*, the nixt day. The Moderator desyred that the proces anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie, might be wakened againe, and put to some poynt, seing it cannot be gotten done be submissioun. The Presbytrie ar content to give him proces, and to begin where they endit, and ar the nixt day to advyse the haill proces, that there efter they may proceed to thair interloquitor.

DYSERT, *April* 7, 1631.

The whilk day Mr Andro Lawmonth handled the cowmown head, *De Scriptura* and susteined disputations thereupon.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Mungo Law desyred the Presbytrie that he might have thair testimoniale being to remove hence to the Presbytrie of Dalkeith, whilk was grantit, and the clerk ordeaned to penn the samyn. The Presbytrie appoynts the first Thursday efter the Assemblie to adyse the haill proces anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie, that thair efter they may proceid to thair interloquitor. Mr Frederik Carmichel, taks upon him to handell the cowmown head, *De Christ*, nixt day, Mr Robert Cranstown to follow him. Mr John Tullus sent his excuse of absence from the Presbytrie so oft, in respect of his gryt weaknes and inabilitie of his person to travell abroad.

Mr J. MILLER, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 28.

The whilk day being the first day of meitting efter the Assemblie, Mr Thomas Powtie exercised without addition, in respect Mr David Anderson, who should have exercised, was sick, and so excused himself. Allowed.

The exercise for the nixt day layed upon the kirk of Markinch, addition upon Kennoquhie. Text, Gall. 6, v. 16. Absents—the Moderator, Mrs Alexander Scrimgeor, David Martin, John Chalmer, Andro Lawmonth, Frederik Carmichel, Robert Cranstown,

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 5, 1631.

The whilk day Mr Andro Lawmonth exercised without addition in respect he tuik the whole tyme. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Frederik Carmichel appoyntit to exercise the nixt day. Mr Robert Cranstown to add. Text, Gall. 6., 17. Motion anent the B. of Ross. Motion anent ane collection for the distressed of the Palatinat. Mr Robert Cranstown excused his last dayes absence in respect he was under phisick. Allowed.

The Moderator excused his last dayes absence in respect he was accompanying his sonne, Mr Andro, who was goeing shipbuird towards Ingland. Excuse accepted.

Mr Andro Lawmonth proponed to the brethern be way of question whidder or not the slander of Mr Georg Fogo was altogither taine away by his mariage. They anser; not: also whidder he may be admittit to the communion, they anser; not till he give some satisfaction and advyses him not to present himself to the table rashlie. The brethern appoynts this day aught dayes for advyseing of the proces of the controverted seat in Kirkcaldie and to lay uther things asyde that day; also the brethern adverteised to be present.

DYSERT, *May* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Litiljohn desyred of the brethren that he might be admittit upon their exercise, the brether ar content and assignes to him the 28 vss of the 11 Chapt. of Mathew, for his privie tryells. The haill proces concerning the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie being redd and considerit, the brether ar to give out thair interloquitor the nixt day anent the removeing or not removeing of it, *lite pendente*, and ordeanes all parties haveing entrest to be sowmonit thairto, and the brethern adverteised to convein frequentlie to that effect.

Compeirit Bessie Buntine quadrilapse in fornication ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress, and seeing for the present she is not prepared, ordained to come to Kirkcaldie the nixt day and resave hir injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown should have exercised, bot in respect he was lang in comeing the exercise wer entered, befoir, who shew that he had used dilligence, whilk was accepted. He is appoynted to mak the nixt day. Mr John Litiljohn haveing handled the text assignit to him: doctrin being censured and allowed, he is appoynted to add the nixt day. Text, John 1, 1.

Anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie the interloquitor continewed to this day fyftein dayes in respect the act of the Sessioun is not present.

DYSERT, *May* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown produced ane letter from the B. of St Androis, anent the contribution of the B. of Ross.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Motion anent the Burser of Theologie his maintenance. The mater of the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie is continewed to this day fyftein

dayes in respect the Moderator is absent. Oliver Patersons wyff gave in ane petition for some supplie: remitted to the particular Sessioun. Question being proponed be Mr Andro Lawmonth anent Mr Georg Fogo the Presbytrie thinks expedient that he may naither be admitted to communion nor any exercise in the Kirk till he mak his repentance in Markinch as uthers doe, that is, that he sall come befoir the pulpett and acknowledge his fault and crave pardon, and appoynts him to be present the nixt day in Dysert to be informed be the Presbytrie.

DYSERT, *June* 9.

The whilk day Mr William Nairne exercised, Mr William Spittell added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr William Spittell is appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr James Miller to add. Text, John 1. Presents—onlie the ministers of Dysert and the ministers of Kirkcaldie, and Mr Andro Lawmonth. Mr Georg Fogo continewed to the next day.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator excused his last tuo dayes absence by porenes of his eyes, and ane letter from my Lord of St Androis. Accepted.

Mr Frederik Carmichel desyred that he might have ane nott or minutt of these moneyes whilk he had debursit for his manss, inbuikit in thair Presbytrie buik *ad futuram rei memoriam,* whilk ar thrie hundreth merks delyvered be him to Mr James Symeson, his predecesser, whilk the said Master James acknowledged resaved be him befoir the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie thinks his desyre resonable and therefoir desyres thair Clerk to inbuik the samyne. Mr Frederik also excused his last dayes absence from the Presbytrie by reson of sicknes. Accepted.

Mr Thomas Powtie proponed in name of the relict of Umqll Master James Wilson, minister at Kinglessie, who depairtit this lyff at the feast of Yule last what she may have as relict of the said defunct of the steipend of Kinglessie. Thair anser was, that she will gett that years steipend wherein the said Mr James died, and the half of the nixt accordeing to ane old act. Anent Mr George Fogo, the brethren continews in thair former mynd, that for purgeing of that slander, he shall ryse furth of his seatt upon the nixt Sabbath and come befoir the pulpett and thair confess his fault, and crave God and the congregation pardon, and to add to the exercise upon Thursday thairefter if he obey, as also that he shall acknowledge his fault presentlie befoir the brethren, and crave God and them pardon for his offence, whilk he presentlie obeyit.

DYSERT, *June* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill excused his last dayes absence by being at ane neir freinds buriall whilk was accepted. John Anderson and Margret Mason, in Kirkcaldie, being referred be the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie, as adulterers to the Presbytrie this day called, compeired not. Ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro. 2.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 30, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symeson excused his last dayes absence being in Falkland. Accepted. The mater concerning the contraverted seatt in Kirkcaldie continued, to the nixt day, and the parties to be sowmonit thereto with certification, etc.

DYSERT, *July* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . David Bennet giving in ane complaint aganest the Bailies of Kirkcaldie, craved warrent to sowmond them aganest the nixt day whilk was granted.

Compeired Agnes Crystison, relict of Umqll Mr James Wilson, late minister at Kinglessie, desyreing to know what she may crave of Mr Thomas Melvill, new intrant thair. The Presbytrie desyres them both to submit themselves to some brethren, whilk they willinglie doe, and so the said Agnes nominats for her, Mr David Anderson and Mr Thomas Powtie and the said Mr Thomas Melvill, nominats the Moderator and the parson of Dysert, submitting themselves freelie to them. The brethrens interloquitor being demandit, whither or not the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie should be removed, *lite pendente*, they voit negative.

The Presbytrie ordained all the persons to whom the controverted seat belongs, and these who wer at the in putting of it, viz., James Law, John Colyear, James Colyear, William Tenant, Robert Frenche, David Baxter, wright, to be sowmonit to heir themselves censured for contemp of the Presbytrie in contemning the act thairof intimat to them.

KIRKCALDIE, *July* 14, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alex. Law and James Williamson, challanged upon sundrie slanderous speaches utered be them aganest David Bennet, they crave ane copie of his claime to anser, the whilk was grantit, and the clerk ordained to give the samyn. Mr Robert Douglas excused his last tuo dayes absence from the Presbytrie by being over the water. Accepted.

Mr Thomas Melvill declaired that the submissioun betwixt him and the relict of Mr James Wilson was continewed the last Wednesday in respect of the Moderators absence, who was ane of the parties. Ordeanes the parties to whom the controverted seatt belongs, to be sowmonit the nixt day. Mr Thomas Melvill craves the brethrens advice anent the mariage of ane begger who hes bein seven years resident in Kinglessie parochin, craveing the samyne: the brether advises him to marie him.

DYSERT, *July* 21, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Robert Frenche, William Tenant, David Baxter, parties anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie, being sowmonit, called: compeired not: ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro. 2. The parson of Dysert, one of these to whom the mater betwixt Mr Thomas Melvill and the relict of Mr James Wilson was referred, reported that they had agreed them in terms, and was thairafter to agree them fullie,

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 4, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Robert Frenche and William Tenant attending: continewed to the nixt day, in respect of the Moderator's absence. Motion anent the B. of Ross.

DYSERT, *August* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Robert Frenche and William Tenent called upon, compeired not; ordained to be sowmonit the nixt day, with certificatioun if they compeir not, we will proceed aganest them. Andro Pullo, sailer in Pittenweem, compeirand with ane supplication for relief of his ransom being taken be the Turks: the Presbytrie remitts him to thair particular sessiouns. Certain letters of recommendation and petitions of the distressed members of Christ of the Pallatinat, together with the Kings Maties recommendatioun and letter patent for thair relief, be ane generall collection being considered be the brethren, they ar content, and promieses to intimat the samyne to thair several congregatiouns, and to deall for thair relieff. Compeireit Elspet Murison, in the Weyms, desyreing to have hir bairn baptized (alledgit brought furth be hir to ane Alexr. Fullerton in Leyth) the Presbytrie ordaines Mr John Tullus, minister of Weyms, to baptise the bairn.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 28, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeirit Robert Frenche and John Colyear, challenged for contemp of the Presbytrie in putting in thair seatt aganest the act thairof, intimat to them, they flatlie deny that ever such ane act was intimat to them.

The Presbytrie taks to prove the samyn, and thairfoir ordaines parties and witness to be sowmonit to the nixt day for proveing the samyn.

Question anent ane bairne brought furth in Kinghorn be straungers, who alledgid that it was gotten within that same parochin. The brethren thinks meitt that if the man will find caution to satisfie as fornicators and if it sallbe found utherwayes to satisfie accordinglie, in that caice thair bairn may be baptized.

DYSERT, *August* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator requested the brethren to be cairful of the distressed caice of these of the Pallatinat. They promises dilligence thairin. As also anent the B. of Ross they promeiss to pay when they gett thair steipends.

The brethren shew that they had caused reid the Kings Maties patent, anent the conceiled moneyes at thair kirk durrs. Compeired William Tenant, who constantlie denyed that ever the act of the Presbytrie aganest the inputting of the controverted seatt was intimat to him. Sowmonds him, *apud acta*, to be present the nixt day, and the rest of the parties also, to heir and sie witness resaved for proveing the same aganest them. Mr John Chalmer desyred the brethren to excuse his oft absence, in respect of his continuall infirmity.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 1, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Colyear, William Tenant, Robert Frenche, David Baxter, wright to heir and sie witnes resaved aganest them for proveing them to have contemnit the Presbytrie in vilepinding thair act quhilk was intimat to them be Henrie Kairnes, Kirk Officior, who compeirand admitted and sworn: deponed upon his gryt oath that he went upon Saturday, efter the said act about elevin or tuelf hours (be direction of Mr James Symson) to Robert Frenches hous to have intimat the act to him bot fand him not within nayer made he intimation in the hous.

Also he went to James Colyear hous where David Baxter, wright, was workand the said seatt, and intimat the act to them personalie desyreing them not to place the said seatt till the Presbytrie wer advysed thereanent, who ansered they wald not put it in till it wer reddie, bot deponed that he never went to William Tenant to intimat the said act to him, naythr yet to Mr Harie Melvill, nor James Law, younger, to whom most properlie the said seatt belongs. Mr Robert Douglas declaired that upon the said Saturday efter the said act he comeing to the kirk in the tyme of the ringing of the third bell, Robert Frenche being collecting moneys for the poore at the kirk durr the said Robert said to him we are to put in our seatt this night, to whom the said Mr Robert replyed, I desyre you doe it not for it will breid trouble; bot denyed that he spak so to him be virtue of any act. The Presbytrie taks to further advysement whider or not the act was sufficientlie intimat to the parties and if Mr James Symeson has anything further to say.

DYSERT, *September* 9, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator compleaned upon the informalitie of the proces the last day anent the controverted seatt, in that witnes wer resaved, he not being present to heir them admitted.

Mr David Anderson compleaned upon ane Agnes Grig, in Ballingrie, for alledgit abuseing his dochter in the kirk upon the Sabbath, he being in the pulpett. Ordeanes to sowmond hir to the nixt day pro. 2, he having sowmonit hir once befoir, whilk they approve.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 15, 1631.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Powtie exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Andro Fairfull appoynted to exercise the nixt day. Mr Andro Lawmonth to add. Text, John 1, 39. Absents—the Moderator, Mrs Alexander Scrimgeor, David Martin, Andro Lawmonth, John Tullus, William Spittell. Mr Robert Douglas excused his absence the last day by sicknes. Accepted.

Mr Frederik Carmichel excused his last dayes absence being with the Bishopp. Accepted. Mr David Anderson gave in ane indorsat sowmonds schaweing that Agnes Grig was sowmonit, pro. 2, to compeir befoir the Presbytrie for troubeling the kirk. She called, compeirit not. Compeired James Bedson craved of the

Presbytrie ane other day to hir in respect of the harvest. The Presbytrie grants till this day moneth the first day of meitting efter the assemblie and ordeanes hir to compeir that day in Dysert.

DYSERT, *September* 22, 1631.

The whilk day Mr Georg Fogo exercised for Mr Andro Fairfull. Doctrin censured and allowed. No addition this said day in respect that Mr Andro Lawmonth sent his excuse of his absence and want of addition in respect his cornes wer in daunger of loseing as also be reason of the sicknes of his Father-in-law, Doctor Howie. Acceptit. Mr Andro Lawmonth appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, Mr Fredrik Carmichel to add. Text, John 1, 41.

Absents—Mrs Alexander Scrimgeor, David Martin, Andro Lawmonth, Frederik Carmichel.

Delivered by Mr John Tullus minister at Weyms, eight pounds for Mr George Gilespie thair Bursar of Theologie. Anent the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie the brethren thinks expedient to deall yit with both the parties who has interest thairintill to submit themselfs againe to some brethren who may tak away that mater peaceablie, and for that effect nominats Mr Thomas Powtie, minister at Leslie, and Mr Robert Cranstown, minister at Skunie, and Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, to deall with Robert Frenche and the rest of his pairtners.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 29, 1631.

The whilk day, thair was no exercise in respect of the absence of Mr Andro Lawmonth, who should have exercised.

October 13, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill declaired that he had spoken to John Colyear and Robert Frenche, anent ane new submissioun for the seatt, who wer content to submit *De Novo.* Mr David Anderson compleaned aganest Agnes Grig for alledgit abuseing of his dochter, in the Kirk of Ballingrie, with hir speaches upon one Sabbath day who compeiring denyed the samyn. The said Mr David offers him to prove the samyn. The said Agnes sowmonit *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day.

DYSERT, *October* 20, 1631.

Mr Robert Douglas exercised for Mr Fredrik Carmichel. The parson of Dysert reported that the Bailies and Cownsell of Dysert had chosen ane man to be Belman, without the advyce of the ministers and consent of the sessioun aganest the forme used of old.

The brethren thinks meitt that the tuo old Bailies, and the tuo new Bailies, shall come to the Presbytrie this day fyftein dayes to heir their reasons for thair deid and to deall with them freindlie for setling that mater, and appoynts Mr James Symson to desyre them to meitt the said day. Compeired Agnes Grig who with consent of James Bedsone, her husband, is content to submitt the mater controverted

betwixt hir and Mr David Andersons dochter, as also the said Master David Anderson, for himself and for his daughter (at the request of the Presbytrie) is content to submit, and to that effect, that the mater may be taine away peaceablie and freindlie they all with one consent submitts themselfs to Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, and Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, and to Mr Alexander Colvill, as oversman, to deall thairin at thair pleasure.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Frenche, declaireing his willingnes to have the mater of the controverted seatt taine away freindlie and peaceablie and promises to caus James Law, subscrybe ane new submission to that effect. Mr Frederik Carmichel craved the brethrens adyce anent ane man, who being upon his deathbed confessit that he had lyen with ane woman under promise of marage, the woman denyeing the samyne, what way he shall deall with hir. The Presbytrie thinks meit that he deall with hir, to bring her to ane confessioun and to terrifie hir with ane oath bott not to take it if she abyd by her denyall. The said Mr Frederik declaird that thair wer some cornes unshorne upon the Sabbath day, in the morneing and at noone wer shorne, and bund, and stouked, perteyning to sundrie persons, and the deid denyed be all. The brethren thinks meitt that he try the mater and use everie ane of them witness against ane uther. The said Mr Frederik excused his last tuo dayes absence, being the ane day in Strathearn, the uther in Lowthian.

November 3, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Miller desyreing David Thomsons proclamations with Jean Hutchen, to be stayit and craveing ane competent tyme to persue him befoir the ordinar judge for promeise of mariage as she alledges.

The brethren ordeanes their proclamations, to be stayit and gives her 40 dayes space to persue him. The mater anent the Bailies of Dysert thair meiting with the Presbytrie continued to this day fyftein dayes. Desyres Mr James Miller to adverteise Mr Robert Frenche to have the submissioun in reddines aganest the nixt day. Kirkcaldie and Skunnie, payit thair contributioun to the Burser of Theologie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Motion anent the contributioun for these of the Palatinat.

DYSERT, *November* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . The mater with the Bailies of Dysert continewed to this day fyftein dayes. The Moderator presentit ane act of the Presbytrie of Demfermeline, anent the order taine be them for restranining of uncouth, idle, and sturdie beggers. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that everie one of the brethren shall acquaint thair particular sessiouns thairwith and that they convein frequentlie in Kirkcaldie upon Thursday the 8 day of December, and bring commissioners with them from thair paroshes to advyse anent takeing order with them.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Balvaird desyred of the brethren, that he may be admitted upon thair exercise and desyres ane text to handle privatlie for his tryell. They ar content and appoints him for, Text, Rom. 5, 7.

Compeired David Thomsone, desyreing his mariage with Jean Hutchen. To be furthered.

The Presbytrie ordaines Margart Miller to be sowmonit to the nixt day, that they may be confrontit with certificatioun if she compeir not, she sallbe no further hard.

DYSERT, *December* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Fogo is appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr Robert Douglas to add. Text, John 2, 12. The Bailies of Dysert compeiring anent the mater of chuseing thair belman. Probatiouns for both parties continewed to this day fyftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 8, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent order to be taken for restraining uncany begers compeired John Melvill, of Raith, John Ingles and John Hogg, bailie of Kirkcaldie, Commissioners for Town and Paroch of Kirkcaldie, Robert Gedd and Richard Ross, Commissioners for the Towne and Parochin of Burntiland, David Bosuell of Mildeans, for the Parochen of Kinglessie, and Thomas Crawford, Commissioner for the Paroch of Auchtertule, who all with one consent, ratified and approved the order taken be the Presbytrie of Dumfermeline, and ar content to hald hand to and observe the samyn whereof the tenor follows :—At KIRKCALDIE, the 8*th Day of December* 1631.

Whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie with Commissioners direct from particuler sessiouns within the samyne, being conveined for the effect underwritten. Considering that diverss Acts of Parliaments maid for restraining of vagabond, strong, masterful, and bold beggers, and such as call themselfs Egiptians, who besydes uther inconveniences whilk they daylie bring to the cowmonwealth, procures the wrath of God for thair wicked and ungodlie forme of living, without mariage and baptism of thair bairnes, committing adultrie, incest theft, and uther odious crymes, and that punishments ar appoyntit aganest them, whilk not being put to execution thair numbers dailie incress, and ar growen bold in all disorder, ryott, and abuseing of gud people. Considering also that by Acts of Assemblies of the Kirk, everie minister and paroch ar ordained to restraine the saids strong vagabond and bold beggers and Egiptians, and understanding that diverss Presbytries seing the inormities committed be them, have taken order for restraining of them whilk mak them so to abound among us, thairfoir the saids brethren with commissioners foirsaids, efter due consideratioun of the saids Acts of Parliaments and Assemblies of the Kirk, and of the gryt evills whilks the said vagabond, strong, and bold beggers produce to the offence of God, and hurt of the cowmonweill, and that thair multitude boldnes and importunitie is ane gryt hindrance to all Parochines for

the susteining of thair owne poore. Efter matur deliberatioun have resolved and concluded to use and observe the order followeing within thair severall Paroches for restraining of the samyne: To wit they ordeane that all persons in everie Parosh to burgh and land shall refuse to all strong, bold, and vagabond beggers and Egiptians to resave them in lodgeing, or sell meate or drink to them, or to give them almes at thair durres efter the second day of Februar nixt to cum, under the paine of 20 sh *toties quoties* to be taken of them who resetts them in lodgeing or sells meatt or drink to them efter the said day, and that for ilk persone they resaitt, and of 4 sh. to be taken of them who gives them meat or drink or silver at thair durrs, whilks penalties shalbe taken up be the masters and principals of the ground in landward, and by the Baillies in Burghs, and given to the sessioun of the Parochin to be applyed to the use of the poore within the samyn. And therefoir ordeanes everie minister to intimat this ordinance publicklie in thair pulpetts that no person pretend ignorance thairof, and to charge thair parochiners to admonish all such strong, vagabond, and bold beggers and Egiptians that come to them betwixt and the said 2 day of Februar nixt to cum, that they shall not be resaved be them in lodgeing nor resave almes from them efter the said day, bot that the punishments appoynted be the Acts of Parliament salbe execut aganest them, and that this order may be the better advertised ordeanes everie sessioun be uniform consent to approve this ordinance, and to requyre the magistrats in burghs and masters of grownds in landwart, to promeiss faithfullie that they shall hold hand diligentlie to the execution thereof and that the eldirs salbe diligent in delateing and uptaking the penalties of the transgressors, as they will shew themselfs enemies to wickednes and maintainiers of guid order. and that everie minister report everie Presbytrie day the diligence of his parochiners. As for the provisioun of the poore of everie parochin, refers the samyne to the sessioun of everie kirk to be direct be the Act of Parliament, King James the Sixt, Parliament 6, Cap. 74. Finis.

DYSERT, *December* 15, 1631.

The whilk day . . . . . The Baillies of Dysert not compeiring as was appoynted the brethren thinks expedient that they be delt freindlie first, and if that cannot availl, that process be intendit aganest them, and to that effect appoynts Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas to meit with them and deall with them. Compeired David Thomsone desyreing to have his proclamatiouns in mariage perfyted the 40 dayes whilk wer granted to Margrret Miller for persewing of him befoir the ordinar Judge being endit, and naythr she or any in hir name ever compeiring, nor yet now. The Presbytrie appoynts thair proclamations to be endit and them maryed.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symeson declared that he had spoken with the Baillies of Dysart anent the amicable takeing up of the mater controverted betwixt them, and the parson and Sessioun and ther anser was they wad declyne the Presbytrie and not be judged be them, and therefoir the brethren advyses the parson to proceid aganest them be process,

DYSERT, *December* 29.

Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr David Martin appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr John Chalmer to add. Text, John, 2, 22.

Absents—all except the ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Kingorn and Kinglessie, in respect of the fowl wether.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 5, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . The baillies of Dysert are appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day. The Presbytrie accepts of Mr Robert Frenche his offer that he shall aythr subscrybe in the Presbytrie book or elss ane tikeit to the submissioun for the controverted seatt.

DYSERT, *Januar* 12, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer declaired that there was a straunger woman who haunted his Pariochin who was suspect of witchcraft.

They advyse him to put hir out of his bownds or ells to present hir to the justice. Also the said Mr John declaired that there was some of Kingorn parochiners who never comes to any kirk and lives without dicipline being farr from there paroshe kirk. The Presbytrie remitts the samyn to the visitation and in the meantyme ar to deall with the minister to tak order with them.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 19.

Mr Thomas Melvill exercised without addition . . . . . Compeired Thomas Miller and Marion Blair: confrontit: the said Marion confesses hirself with bairne, and affirms the said Thomas to be father to it and that he lay with hir twyse in William Melvills hir masters house, and anes with hir at the peir; whilk the said Thomas denyes and affirms than ane Hilloks dochter in the Peathhead said that she tuik her father and hir together. Affirmed be Janet Brown. Remitted to tryell.

DYSERT, *Januar* 26, 1632.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised for Mr David Anderson without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Thomas Powtie is appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr Andro Fairfull to add. Mr Thomas Melvill taks upon him to adverteise them. Text, John 3, 5.

Presents—onlie the ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, and Kinglessie in respect of the tempestuousnes of the wether.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 2.

Master Andro Fairfull exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Text, John 3, 6. . . .

DYSERT, *Februar* 9.

Mr Andro Lawmonth exercised without addition . . . . . The Moderator excused his last four dayes absence, thrie thairof be foull wether and the fourth

by being over the water. Accepted Mr David Anderson sent his excuse be sicknes and being over the water. Accepted

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 16.

The whilk day Mr Georg Fogo exercised for Mr Thomas Powtie, Mr Frederik Carmichel added. Doctrin censured and allowed. . . .

DYSERT, *Februar* 23, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Michell Lathreish in Dysert and Jonet Kircaldie in Kingorne who gave in ane supplicatioun to the brethren for comfort and supplie for the said Michell his sone and the said Jonets brother who hes bein thir ellevin years captives; thrie thairof with the Turks and the rest with the Spaniards in thair galeyes, where they remain to this day. The brether appoynts the Clerk to recommend thair pitifull esteit to my Lord Archbishop of St Androis and to request his L. to tak it to hart and to deall with the Counsell that some means may be found for thair reliefe.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 1, 1632.

The whilk day Mr Frederik Carmichel exercised, Mr John Tullus added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr John Tullus appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr William Nairn to add. Text, John 3, 16.

Absents—The Parson of Dysert, Mr John Chalmer, Mr Thomas Melvill who sent his excuse for his absence thir tuo dayes whilk was accepted.

DYSERT, *March* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Auchmoutie and Kathren Pai in Weyms, the said William haveing contractit the said Kathren tuo years since, and refuiseing to mary her, haveing knawen hir carnallie (as they both confessit). The Presbytrie ordeans him aither to content the said Kathren and satisfie for his levitie, or else ordeanes the said Kathren to pursue him befoir the ordinar Judge.

The Presbytrie refuises to contract Georg Grieve upon Christion Hillok, in respect it is bot ten weiks at most since hir husband Richard Bosuell died.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . The Parsone of Dysert excused his last tuo dayes absence by being over the water, for the valuation of Dysert. Acceptit. The parsone of Dysert proponed anent ane bairn gottin be William Thomson upon Christian Hutton, both indwellers in Weymss, the space of twentie years since or thereby, no notice thairof being since now come to notice except by one Kathren Kairter, to whom the said William alledges that he had given twentie punds (in borroweing as he alledges now), bot at that tyme to conceile the mater, as the said Kathren Kairter alledges. The Presbytrie desyres the Parson of Dysert to tak diligent tryell anent that mater for trying of it.

DYSERT, *March* 22.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised, Mr John Litiljohn added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr John Litiljohne is appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr Georg Fogo to add. Text, John 3, 19.

Absents—All except the ministers of Dysert, Kirkcaldie, and Kinglessie, in respect of the extreame foull wether.

KIRKCALDY, *March* 25, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichel, one of these to whom the controversie of the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie was submitted, protested (as haveing warrand of Mr Rt. Cranstown, his brether, conjunct with him in the cause), as also haveing warrand of his parties submitters that this dayes absence of the rest should be no prejudice to the expyreing or not expyreing of the submissioun.

April 5, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . David Chrystie, baillie of Dysert, proponed to the Presbytrie the distressed estaitt of David Kirkcaldie in Kingorne, and Alexander Lathrice in Dysert, who ar pitifullie deteyned captives thir ellevin years bygone, thrie thairof with the Turks, and the rest in the Spanish Galyes, where they remaine presentlie desyreing the brethren to tak thair pitifull estaitt to hart, and to advyse upon some guid means for thair relief. The Presbytrie refers the mater to the Sinode. Also the Presbytrie refers the controversie anent the buriall bell of Dysert to the Assemblie. Also the mater of the slander of adultrie betwixt William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, and Margrt. Law thair, is lykewayes referred to the Assemblie. Anent the mater of the controverted seatt in Kirkcaldie, the submission expyreing this day the Moderator desyred the extract of the Presbytrie, and the extract of the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie, whilk was grantit. Compeired Thomas Miller and Marion Blair, she affirmeing hirself to be with bairn to him, and he constantlie denyeing that evir he knew hir. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to purge himself be his great oath, after that she is delyvirit of the bairn.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 19, 1632

The whilk day being the first day of meitting efter the Synod, Mr Georg Fogo exercised, Mr Harie Wilkie added, who is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, Mr Robert Douglas to add. Doctrin censured and allowed. Text, John, 3, 22. Compeired William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, and Margart. Law thair, for thair slanderous behaviour of adultrie being diverss tymes dischargit each uthers companie be the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie. The Presbytrie *de novo* dischearges them to companie one with another heirefter, or to have any comerce or dealling togither directlie or indirectlie with certificatioun that if ever they salbe fownd to have bein togither or to be togither in any tyme comeing, they salbe repute and haldin as adulterers, and salbe made to satisfie accordinglie.

Mr John Chalmer haveing written to the Presbytrie anent James Abercrombie, of Strathrudie, his disobedience to the Sessioun of Auchterdirran in not comeing to the kirk. The brethren ordeanes him to be sowmonit to compeir befoir them in Dysert the nixt day.

Anent Euphain Stanes in Kirkcaldie, hir sitting downe upon hir knies, and craveing hir milk agane for Gods saike from Margart Nicholsone, at the said Margaretts owen desyre. The Presbytrie ordeanes them both to mak thair repentance befoir the pulpett.

DYSERT, *April* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie in Auchterdirran paroche being sowmonit for disobedience to the kirk, called, compeired not. Ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro. 2. Compeired John Pittilok ane poore man craveing the Presbytries judgement to what paroche he belongs seeing he was borne in the parosh of Skunie and had remained the most part of his liff in Kennoquhie workeing: also Mr James Symeson declaired that he had remained seven years togither in Kennoquhie in his time. The Presbytrie declairs him to be a parochioner of Kennoquhie.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 3, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie ar content that Georg Grieves mariage may goe fordwart.

DYSERT, *May* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alexander and David Symesons bailies of Dysert producing ane warrand from the Secret Cownsell as also from the Synodoll Assemblie for ane subsidie to be collectit for the building of thair harborie desyreing the brethren to deall with thair parochiners for thair support. The brethren promeiss to doe diligence.

Compeired James Abercrombie excuseing his absence when he was sowmonit in respect he was not at home. The Presbytrie remitts him till Mr John Chalmer his persewer be present. Mr Thomas Melvill minister at Kinglessie proponed that he myt have ane minut insert in the Presbytrie buik of the sowme of fyve hundreth merks whilk he had paid to the relict of his predecessor Mr James Wilson whilk was also testified by the Parson of Dysert, and Mr Robert Douglas minister of Kirkcaldie chosen for the part of the said Mr Thomas, and Mr David Anderson and Mr Thomas Powtie chosen for the part of the said relict to agree them whilk the brethren thought reasonable and thairfoir appoynted the clerk to registrat the samyn *ad futuram rei memoriam* that the said Mr Thomas or uthers in his name may crave the samyn from the nixt intrant.

The Parson of Dysert and the Moderator payit the Bursar of Theologie for Dysert and Burntiland.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 17, 1632.

The whilk day Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised for the Moderator, Mr David Martin added.

DYSERT, *May* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill excused his last dayes absence being in Stratherne. Accepted.

The exercise was intermitted the last day in respect of the tempestuous wether.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Kathren Douglas adultress with William Lindesay ane uther wyffs husband : resaved her first injunctions.

DYSERT, *June* 14.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised for Mr David Anderson without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Harie Wilkie appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr Thomas Melvill to add. Text, John 3, 32. Absents—Mrs David Martin, David Anderson, Frederik Carmichel, John Tullus, Mr Robert Douglas who is over the water sicke.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 22, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Lindesay confessit adultrie with Kathren Douglas: resaved his first injunctions. Compeired also Agnes Blaik adultress with Robert Strang: resaved hir last injunctions. David Kirkcaldie ane of these tuo who has bein deteyned captive be the Turks and Spaniards thir elevein years bygone his pitifull letter being read and considered be the brethren, they promeise diligence for his relief and his neighbors.

DYSERT, *June* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alexander and David Symesons, bailies of Dysert, Georg Scott, David Carsoll, Georg Halkhead, with some uthers honest men, regraitting the want of doctrin upon the Sabbath efternoone, in respect of Mr William Spittell, who should supplie the place, does it not.

The brethren remitts the mater till they heir Mr William himself, and in respect he may not compeir without haisard, they appoynt Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas to goe to him, and compeir for him thereanent.

Mr Thomas Melvill produced ane tickit from Georg Suttie of the resait of 59 lbs. 8 sh. that was collectit in the parochin of Kinglessie, for the relief of the distressed estait of these of the Pallatinatt.

KIRKCALDIE, *July* 5.

The whilk day Mr Andro Fairfull exercised without addition. . . . . Compeired, Thomas Allan, messinger, chargit the Moderator and brethren to requyre the parochiners of Kinglessie to convein and chuse honest skilled men to sett downe ane stent for repairing of the kirk and kirkyaird dykes of Kinglessie, under the paine of horneing.

Ordeanes the Clerk to writt ane precept and deliver it to the said Mr Thomas for requyreing the samyn. Mr William Spittell compeirand, regrated the estait of the kirk of Dysert in wanting preaching upon the Sabbath efternoone, promeises so soone as possiblie he can gett his adoes to any poynt to supplie the samyn, and in the meantyme requests the brethren to supplie the samyn for thrie or four dayes till he can gett his maters outred. The brethren request Mr John Litiljohn to supplie that place for ane short space as he had done befoir: he promeises to do the samyn. Michell Lathrice putt the brethren in mynd of the collection to be gathered for his sonne and David Kirkcaldie, who promieses diligence. Compeired Robert Watt confessit adultrie with Janet Hunter, who resaved his first injunctions.

DYSERT, *July* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill returned the process for repaireing the kirk and kirkyaird dykes of Kinglessie dulie executt and indorsat. Compeired Janet Hunter, confessit adultrie with Robert Watt: resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDY, *Jul.* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired David Bennett for refuiseing to be reconcilled with his neighbors befor the communion: denyed the samyn. Continewed to this day fyftein dayes, that these who wer sent to him for that effect may be hard.

DYSERT, *July* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichel desyred that thair might be ane minut of the thrie hundreth merks quhilk he gave to Mr James Symeson, his predecessor, for reparation of the Manss of Kennoquhie (whilk the said Mr James acknowledgit he had resaved) insert in the Presbytrie booke, *ad futuram rei memoriam*, whilk was thought reasonable, and the clerk appoynted to minut the samyn.

KIRKCALDY, *August* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . John Hogg, bailie, and John Inglis reported that they went to David Bennet desyreing him to be reconcilled with Alexr. Law and William Williamsone befoir the communion, who refused except thai wald acknowledg that they had done him wrong and offer him some satisfactioun.

Compeired William Spens ane blind man craveing baptisme to ane bairn borne to him in Dysert be his wyff with whom he was laufullie maried in the Ketle parosh.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr William Nairn parson of Dysert to baptise the said Williams bairn haveing sein his testimoniall of his mariage as also Mr Robert Cranstown testifeing the samyn. Mr John Chalmer younger, craveing of the brethren that he might enter upon thair exercise, they appoynt him to teach the nixt day upon the 9 and 10 verses of the second chapter to the Phillipians privatlie for his tryell.

DYSERT, *August* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired David Bennet shaweing that he was willing to be reconcilled with Alexr. Law and William Williamsone so being they wold confess that they had wronged him in slandering him unjustlie, utherwayes he had intendit process aganest them alredie to presue them befoir the High Commissioun promeising to prosecute the samyn aganest them whereupon the Presbytrie pass from thair persute aganest him. Michaell Lathrice in Dysert compeiring earnestlie desyres the brethren that they wad diligentlie expeid thair collectiouns for the relief of his sone and David Kirkcaldie in Kingorn. They promeiss to use diligence.

Mr John Chalmer handled the place of Scriptur assignit to him the last day with approbatioun of the brethren who at his fathers desyre assignit to him ane uther text to handle, viz., Rom. 12, 1, to handle this day aught dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Scrimgeor proponed anent Robert Lambert who having contractit Isobel Kennedie, and not being capable of the benefits of the kirk in respect he lyes under the slander of murder; the said Robert slanders the said Isobel saying that he lay with hir: how he shall deall with them thairanent. The brethrens advyce anent Robert Lambert is that the said Mr Alexander shall in nowayes challange the said Isobel Kennedie in respect the said Robert appeirandlie raises the samyn slander upon discontentment: as touching the said Robert they can advyse nothing in respect he lyes under the said slander of murder which is not taine order with be the civill magistratt.

Mr John Chalmer, younger, handled the place of Scriptur assignit to him the ast day to the brethrens gud contentment who ar content to admit him upon the publik exercise.

DYSERT, *August* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Michaell Lathrice requesting the brethren to hasten thair collections for the relief of his sonne and David Kirkcaldie, Kingorne.

They promeiss to use all diligence and appoynts that the brethren shall bring thair collections and delyver them to the Moderator who salbe anserable for the imployment of them to that uss and in respect the tyme is approyching when shipps ar to goe to the bownds where the saids captives ar, they appoynt them to bring them in this day fyftein dayes and delyver them to the Moderator and ordeanes thair clerk to writt ane warrand heirof with Mr Thomas Bigger to the Presbytrie of Dumfermeling and ane uther with the said Michaell Lathrice to the Presbytries of St Androis and Cuper.

KIRKCALDY, *August* 30, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown excused his last thrie dayes absence being tuo of the samyn with sicke folks, and the third at ane buriall. Accepted. Michaell Lathrices business remembrit.

DYSERT, *September* 6, 1632.

The whilk day . . . . . Michaell Lathrices erand remembrit. The brethren present promeise diligence.

DYSERT, *September* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Michaell Lathrice busines the brethren promeiss diligence.

DYSERT, *September* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Michaell Lathrices erand remembrit. Diligence promeised therein.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Laying and Margt. Gray: challenged upon slander of fornication together: both denyed the samyn. Discharged further companie together with certification that if ever they salbe fownd together heirafter, they shalbe halden as guilty of fornication, and maid to satisfie accordinglie. Master John Chalmer declaired that James Abercrombie, portioner, Strarudie, is altogether refractorie to the order of the kirk in absenting himself from the samyn altogether, craveing the brethrens advyse how he shall be delt with. The brethren advyses him to proceid agane him with excommunicatioun. Ordeans the clerk to insert the haill process anent the controverted seatt in the kirk of Kirkcaldie into thair Presbytrie book, thair to remaine *ad futuram rei memoriam.* The Presbytrie considering the misbehaviour of Robert Lambert, and that no order is taken with him for the cruell murder of Thomas Dow, they think expedient that John Colyear, in Kirkcaldie, shall advertyse the father and brother of Thomas Dow to pursue the said Rober Lambert befoir the Justice Generall.

Anent the relieveing of the tuo captives, David Kirkcaldie in Kingorn, and Alexander Lathrice in Dysert, Mr Thomas Biggar declaired that one Robert Sandelands, ane merchand in Edinburt, being to travell to those parts where the saids captives remaines, hes promeised that he shall relieve them, and bring them home with him, whereupon they are to give him band for payment of all that he bestows upon them, and thairfoir diligence is to be used for collecting and inbringing of the collectiouns for that effect.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

Heir follows the process anent the controverted seatt in the kirk of Kirkcaldie, ordeand to be registrat September 27, 1632.

May 26, 1629.

The whilk day the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie granted licence to James Law, younger, in Kirkcaldie (after that his seatt in the kirk wes repaired), to sett it befoir Georg Halkheads seatt, so being it come no further in the Ile, nor the Laird of Raiths seatt, and half-a-foot laigher, and for that effect ordeans the entrie of Georg Halkheads seatt to be turned to the north end of his own seate, and ordeans that it shall not be utherwayes prejudicial to the samyn.

KIRKCALDIE, *May.*

Reasons for removeing the controverted desk and putting it in some uther place, *lite pendente.*

(1) The desk laitlie placed was put in without a warrand, becaus the act of the Sessioun was suspendit be ordinance of the Presbytrie, and thairfoir could be no warrand during the tyme of the suspension.

(2) The said desk was placed with violence immediatelie efter sermon preached on Saturday efternoone for preparation to the communion, at what tyme the actors should have been exercised with better meditations, and not onlie with violence but with a proud contempt of the authoritie of the Presbytrie. The minister in the meantyme comeing to them and chargeing them to desist untill the Presbytrie should take order therein.

(3) John Halkhead who placed the ancient desk whilk now is closed up, and both light and sight thairof stopped, hes possessed it, he and his posteritie, above the space of fiftie years quyetlie and peaceablie, and now wrangeouslie ar dispossessed, albeit the canon law provideth in this maner, *Debent privilegia triginta anno possessa immobiliter observari.*

(4) The desk laitlie placed is not placed according to the act of the Sessioun whilk the placers alledges for thair warrand for the act provideth that it should be no further out and half-a-foot laigher then the Laird of Raith his desk whilk provision the placers of the desk hes no way observed.

(5) It is not placed be the authoritie of the alledged act becaus the act gives them licence to place thair desk befoir the desk of Georg Halkhead and to that effect ordeans the said Georg to alter the entrie of his seat and thairfoir according to the said act Georg Halkhead should first have bein compelled be authoritie of the Sessioun to alter his entrie bot they not stayeing till that was done at thair owne hand, agenes order placed thair desk and consequentlie not be the authoritie of the act of the Sessioun.

Answers to the reasons proponed for removeing of the controverted seate, *lite pendente.*

Ante Omnia. The defenders alledges that no reasons aught to be proponed or hard for removeing of the seat, *lite pendente*, nayther ar the defenders astricted to anser thairto, first, because the laufull contradictorie partie and all uthers haveing intrest viz. the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie ar not sited who ought speciallie to have bein sited to this persute.

Secondlie, It is aganes all law praticque and custome of the kirk to remove any seatt, *lite pendente*, whilk is placed be vertue of ane act of ane lawfull ministrie and sessioun bot so it is that the seatt controverted is placed be ane speciall act of the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie whilk as yet stands unreduced and conform to whilk act the defenders ar in possessioun of the seatt and thairfoir can in no ways be removed, *lite pendente*, at least while the said act of sessioun be declaired null for in effect to remove the seatt, *lite pendente*, is *petitio principii et lis ipsa* and so wold mak the act of sessioun of no force.

Thirdly, The defenders alledges that the seatt controverted was placed be the defenders on verie sufficient and good grownds, viz : first they had ane speciall and express command and directioun of the minister and Sessioun of Kirkcaldie commanding them expresslie aither to place thair seatt where it now stands, betwixt and the nixt Sabbath thairafter (being the communion Sabbath) utherwayes the auld seat should be castin to the kirk durr and they to lose thair rowme in the kirk as the minister elders and deacons will acknowledge to be of truth. *Secundo,* The sessioun passed thair act and ordinance thairanent in favour of the defenders whilk they obeyed. *Thirdly,* Georg Halkhead elder (who pretends some interest to his brothers seatt) was present in the sessioun and approved the said act in so farr as he alledgit no prejudice justlie done to him thairby naither declined he the sessioun as judges competent in such a mater.

Quarto, The removeing of the defenders first seat and placing of his controverted seat was for the policie of the kirk and ease of the people for now thairby four scoir women and above will beeasit both to heir and sie whilk was not befoir.

Quinto, It was far aganest the defenders wills or desyres of any sort to alter or chaunge thair place of sitting if the sessioun had not straitlie urged them thairto for the space of a year and more preceeding the makeing of thair act for that effect.

Sexto, It is a cowmone order and custome observit not only in this kirk bot in all the kirks in this Kingdome to place seatts ane befoir another for the better ease and weill of the people as the kirk sessioun thinks expedient.

Last of all, it is providit be acts of the Kirk of Scotland, at least cowmonlie practised, that magistrats and clerks of burghs who hes the grytest burden and government of the cowmonweill where they dwell should be preferred to the most comodious seatts in the kirk befoir these who hes no charge naither in burden or government of the burgh and so it is that William Tenent John and James Colyears who has bein and presentlie ar bailies of Kirkcaldie and Robert Frenche, clerk thairof to whom the controverted seatt belongs bears great burden and charge within this burgh both in government and in paying of taxations who therefoir ought to be preferred to any seatt in the kirk befoir Georg Halkhead who has no charge nor burden naither in civil nor ecclesiastike government or paying of taxations although it wer even to the renewing of his seat (if he had any) meikle mair quher they suffer him to sit where he sat befoir and does no wrong to him therein. Nowe but (*without*) prejudice of the defenders former alledgences and that the same (being duelie considerit) be first discussit, it is anserit to the persewers reasons :—*First*—Wher the persewers alledges the desk controverted was put in without a warrand etc.—the samyn ought to be repelled in respect of the act of sessioun granted in thair favour for placeing of the said seatt and expres directioun given to them for that effect whilk act must ever stand till the samyn must orderlie be declaired null, and no suspensioun could have bein granted be the Presbytrie to invert the order of ane lawfull sessioun bot the Presbytrie ought and should confirm and establishe all such gud and lawfull ordinances made be the sessioun, for the weill and commoditie of the kirk and if any such act of suspensioun was made or grantit the same should and ought to have bein orderlie and laufullie done, as it wes

not—first, becaus it was not concludit be a sufficient number of brethren of the Presbytrie as salbe qualified.

Secundlie—The Presbytrie hes no such power as to mak acts for suspending or annulling of acts of ane laufull sessioun.

Thirdlie—Albeit they had such power yet the pretendit act of suspension is null, be reason of Doctor John Michelson being partie persewer with Georg Halkhead as he has plainlie profest, and brother-in-law to him, upon a naked complaint of the said Georg without citation of the defenders or Sessioun of Kirkcaldie, as parties having interest, causit mak the pretendit act of suspension, fearing if the defenders had bein cited thairto they would have proponit relevant reasons aganes the makeing and granting thairof.

Lastlie—The said pretended act is null, *ipso facto*—because Doctor Michelson being Moderator of the Presbytrie at that tyme could not sit and collect voits, or mak ane act in favours of himself and of his owne brother-in-law, in so farr as he both then and seinsyne has kythit and professit himself partie in pleading at the barr in the caus.

Secondlie—Quhair the persewers alledges the desk was placed with violence, etc.—it is anserit the same wes placed in verie sober maner conform to the warrand, nather knew the defenders of any contrair warrand given be the Presbytrie, as is alledgit, bot in a verie rude and barbarous forme, and wer impedit be Georg Halkhead in the placeing thairof without all regard to the house of God, or reverence of the act and ordinance of the sessioun, or respect of the tyme being so neir the Sabbath, and resaveing of the holie communion.

Thirdlie—As to the third reason fowndit upon John Halkheads possessioun so many years and that now the persewers ar dispossessed, it is anserit the defenders grownds themselfs upon thair act and warrand of sessioun grantit to them for placeing of thair seate, lykeas John Halkheads seate stands still unremoved where it stoode befoir, and the persewers disposseses themselfs who will not sit in thair ane seat and chaunge thair entrie for thair is *nulla prescriptio in rebus sacris.*

Fourthlie—Where the persewers alledges that the desk was not placed according to the act of the sessioun, and that it should be na farder out then the Laird of Raiths seate, and half-a-foot laigher, etc.—it is anserit that that reason is not ane grownd to take away the placeing of the seate, and what circumstances ar not observit they ar anserable to the sessioun, and no partie prejudged thairby bot the Laird of Raith, who dispenses thairwith ; *hoc est jus tertii*, to the proponer and not competent in his person, seing the defenders, hes in substance and effect observit the act of the sessioun as neir as they can. As to the last reason it ought to be repelled, in respect the defenders hes observit thair part of the said act anent the placeing of thair seat, conform to the quhilk they ar in possessioun, and if the persewers will not obey the act of the sessioun anent the changing of thair entrie it is nothing to the defenders.

Under protestation to be farder hard (if neid be) befoir interloquitor.

Answers to the reasons proponit aganest the removeing of the controverted seate, *lite pendente.*

(1) *First*, all the reasons proponed to prove a negative that the seat ought not to be removed, *lite pendente*, ought to be repelled this Lawier should have learned this meikle law that *ponenti et non inficianti incumbit onus probandi.* I have proponit reasons for the affirmative to these reasons onlie the anser should have anserit and these onlie ought to be discussed.

Secondlie, His first agument to prove his negative is that the sessioun of Kirkcaldie is the contradictorie partie and has speciall interest and should have bein cited—I anser the Sessioun of Kirkaldie is not a contradictorie partie in this first instance but only the placers for the seat who be thair deed done the tyme that the act of the sessioun wes suspendit hes preventit our dispute with them.

Thirdlie, His second argemuent to prove his negative is a confused mass of frivolous reasons. (1) He saith the seat was placed be vertue of ane act of sessioun; I anser it was placed when the act of sessioun wes suspendit and thairfoir when it had no force. (2) He saith the act is not yet produced—I anser the present dispute is not anent the act bot anent a deid done; the act being suspendit. (3) He alledges possessioun—I answer the possessioun is violent aganest the ordinance of the Presbyterie and aganest legal interuptione made be Mr James Symeson, minister. (4) He saith to remove the seat, *lite pendente*, is *petitio principii et lis ipsa* —I answer that naither his logike is gude nor his law to remove the seat simpliciter and for all time to come I grant is *lis ipsa* bot to remove it for a tyme *lite pendente* is not *lis ipsa.* (5) He saith the removeing of the seat wold mak the act of the sessioun of no force and that the sessioun ought first to be sowmonit and thair act anullit—I anser the act of the sessioun had no force when the seat was placed becaus it was suspendit and now he saith the sessioun should first be cited and thair act anullit and reduced—I anser it is reason that the sessioun be hard befoir the removeing of the seat simpliciter bot not befoir the removeing of it, *lite pendente.*

Fourthlie—His third argument to prove his negative is also a chaos and confused mass! He saith they wer commandit be the sessioun to place thair seat where it stands befoir the Sabbath followeing, with certification—I anser the sessioun gave no such command bot onlie gave thair leive, as the act of sessioun will testifie. 2. He saith the sessioun past ane act in thair favours and they obeyed —I anser the act of the sessioun was suspended be the Presbytrie, and they disobeyed. 3. He saith Georg Halkhead being present in the sessioun approved the act in so farr as he proponed no relevant exception aganest the makeing of the act naither did he decline the sessioun nor appeale from it—I anser Georg Halkhead was not cited to compeir befoir the sessioun to anser, onlie he was sent for and askit if he wold give his consent: he refused. 4. He saith that be the removeing of thair onlie seate and placeing of this controverted seate fourscoir women will be easit to heare and sie—I anser that evil should not be done to me that good may come to others and the same commoditie shall come to the people by placeing this new seate in the other syde of the Ile. 5. He saith they were urged be the sessioun for the space of ane year and ane half befoir the makeing of the act; heir he layeth ane imputation of partialite upon the sessioun that gave them so long a tyme to adyse and concludit not till they consented, bot delt far utherwayes with

Georg Halkead and his brothers sone, for the one was at the sailer, the other at home, yit the sessioun, not citing ayther of them to anser, past ane act in thair prejudice and in favour of this man and his partners.

Sixtlie—He saith it is a custome in thair kirk, as in other kirks, to place seats one befoir another as the kirk sessioun thinks expedient—I anser I grant this is done and more also, to wit, the removeing of seats from one place to another, bot this is done with consent of these who hes intrest. (2.) He saith magistrats and clerks of Burghs be the acts of the Kirk ar preferred in seats befoir uthers—I anser I deny thair is any such acts ; if he affirme, let him produce them, nixt let the apostle S. James anser this argument Cap. 2. vs 22. (3.) Where this custome is in preferring magistrats it is not for the persons of the men bot for thair office, so these places belong not to them and thairs bot to the magistrats succeding them. I speak for provests and bailies in Burghs. I knowe no such honnour due to clerks in such Burghs as Kirkcaldie except the man deserve more honnour than his office. (4). These men whom he nameth at least some of them hes uther seats belonging to them in the kirk bot this argument with the most part of the rest is impertinent.

A refutation of the ansers made to the reasons proponit for removeing of the controverted seate.

First—Where we alledge that the seate was placed without a warrand becaus of the pretended act of the sessioun was no warrand, for the tyme it being suspendit, the anserer doeth anser sundrie things. 1. He taks upon him to teache the Presbytrie thair duetie, and says they should not suspend any act of a sessioun, but confirm all thair acts, and to suspend the act of a sessioun is to invert the order of a sessioun—I anser, all these ar idle words. The Presbytrie hes and knowes thair owne authoritie, and ar not to be taught be the town-clerk of Kirkcaldie. 2. He says the suspensioun was not orderlie and laufullie grantit, and why? because it was not concludit be a sufficient number—I anser, the Presbytrie will anser to thair owne Judge, both for thair number and for thair deid. He addeth the Presbytrie hes no such power as to mak acts for suspending or annulling acts of sessiouns—I anser, this is no uther thing bot *Crambe recocta*, and I add that if Presbytries hes power in anything belonging to dicipline, they have power upon appellations or complaints maid to them to examine and try acts and sentences of kirk sessiouns, if they be right to approve them, if they be wrong to annull them. He sayes that neither the partie nor the sessioun were cited to heir the act of suspensioune grantit—I anser when the Lords of Sessioun grants a suspensioun ayther of thair owne decreit or of the decreit of ane inferior Judge, the suspensioun is granted be them upon some complaint without citeation of any partie, the parties haveing intrest are onlie cited to the discussing, not to the granting of the suspensioun. To the second reason perteinand tuo things, first, that the desk was put in with violence, etc. He saith none used violence bot Georg Halkhead—I anser Georg Halkhead was thair alone to mak legall interruption ; they wer a gryt number convenit of set purpose to put in the seate by force. To the third reason from fiftie years possession, and above from the ancient canon of priviliges in Kirk maters possessit for the space of threttie years—his first anser is the warrand of the

act of sessioun; lik the songe of the Cuckow, one thing always repeated. His nixt anser is that John Halkheads seate stands still in that place where it stood befoir—I anser it standeth still, and both light and sight stoped, and wanting that friedome of ishe and entrie it had for more than fiftie years by past. He saith in the 3 place that *nulla est prescriptio in rebus sacris*—I anser it is true, if it be rightlie interprit, bot I deny his applicatioun. To the 4 arguments he granteth that the seate is not placed according to the pretendit act of sessioun, bot, he saith, that in this they ar answerable to the sessioun, meineing the sessioun finds no fault with them. He heir insinuats the particularitie of the sessioun; he addeth that this is *jus tertii* and belongeth to the Laird of Raith onlie who dispensith with it; bot, I anser, that we ar more hurt thereby then any uther, for where the custome is that onlie one seate is placed befoir another, the seate befoir is always lower then the seate behind.

To the last reason he ansers nothing to tak away the argument, onlie he shifteth for a reason after this maner:—The act of the sessioun doeth not ordain them to place thair seate, bot onlie gives them leave and to that effect ordeanes Georg Halkhead to alter his entrie. Heir it is most evident that befoir the placeing of thair seate he should have bein urged be the authoritie of the sessioun to have altered his entrie, bot befoir any intimation of any such ordinance to him thai did thair turne quhair if tyme had bein grantit him he could have proponed reasons to have moved the sessioun to have taken ane uthe course.

For Robert Frenche and his etc.

Whereas the brethren of this Presbytrie by the space of this yeare bygone have bein verie unnecessarlie troublit with this frivolous and idle questione anent a controverted seate which did from the beginning raither proceed from pryde of the persewers nor any just caus and that reasons hes bein proponit for removeing of the seate, *lite pendente*. Ansers made thairto and replies (as they should be rightlie styled) mad to the reasons, bot the Doctor must be pardoned for his slip becaus he professes to be a Divine and not a Lawier, whilk replies are so confussed and tedious yet not so learned nor pithilie growndit upon lau nor gud reason bot they might be verie easilie anserit for thair is nothing in them meriting ane hours paines.

Wherefoir seeing the Doctor compeirs at his owne hand without any warrand of Georg Halkhead younger to quhom that seatt belongs onlie and that we who are the defenders for James Law, owner of the controverted seate compeirs and hes compeired (*ab initio*) in this persute without ane warrand of him. The saids defenders all as one and one as all *instanter* pass from thair compeirance in this caus *pro loco et tempore* be reason that James Law now is of perfect age himself and able to plead his owne caus and hereupon the defenders requyres instruments. Bot if your W. will yet ordaine the defenders to anser to the Doctors reasons as he did them, pardone us that we breid no caus of offence to you for he must be anserit punctualie in such terms as he propones wherewith perhaps he will not be weill content,

For Doctor Johne Micaelsone.

Anser not a foole according to his foolishnes, saith Solomon, least thou also be lyke him, yet he addeth, anser a foole accordeing to his foolishnes least he be wyse in his owne conceates. Whider Robert Frenche be wyse indeid or wyse in his awen conceate I leave that to the judgement of uthers. That which was given in be him to the Presbytrie the last day cannot pass away without ane anser. First, he saith the Presbyterie has been long troublit for the space of a year with this questioun anent a controverted seate—I anser the caus of the delay is not in the persewers who seiks nothing bot justice. (2) He saith the question is frivolous and idle—this is als easilie denyed as it is boldlie affirmit—The contrair is evident yet it is a mater of weight. (3) He saith from the beginning it did proceid from the pryde of the persewers. To this I anser first, that this man hath the sight that Eliab had when he saw pryd in David quhair it was not, nixt, that this man should first cast out the beame of his owne eye, etc. Thirdlie, it is with us as with the cran that craved hir reward from the wolfe for takeing the bone out of his throat; the wolfe thought it might have contented hir that he had spared hir head. (4) He saith that the ansers which I gave in should be stylit replyes and that he marks as a slipp in me whome he calleth alwayes the Doctor in disdaine, but that I overpass. I am sure it is not such a slipp as this Lawier thinks, for quhairas the first part of his writt conteineth no answers to my reasons but reasons of his awne to prove a negative that the seate should not be removed, *lite pendente*,—my anser is, these his reasons cannot be called replyes bot exceptions or ansers to his reasons as I called them.

The second part of his writt conteineth ansers to my reasons proponed for removeing of the seatt, *lite pendente*, to the whilk ansers I wreatt my ansers which I callit refutatioun of his ansers, but, saith he, I should have stylit them replyes, bot this Lawier must understand that all replyes ar ansers, albeit all ansers ar not replyes, and thairfoir he who calleth them ansers maketh no slipp no more then he doeth who calleth a man a living creature, so this critick, *logodaedalus*, λογομαχος, findeth *nodum in stirpo*. 5. He says my replyes ar confused and tedious—I anser if they be confused the blaime lyes on him and not on me, for I keep his order and anser him poynt by poynt.

6. He saith they ar not learned nor pithilie growndit upon law nor gud reason bot thai might be easilie anserit,—as for learning he may forbear to take upon him to judge of it for I think he can als weill judge of learning as the ass who being judge betwein the nightingale and the cuckow gave judgement that the song of the cuckow was more learnit then that of the nightingale; and if they might be easilie anserit, why in place of ansering hath he forsaiken draught and turned his tail to the soland? 7. He saith thair is nothing in them mereting ane hours paines—Heir I tak instruments that he can say nothing aganest the mater and substance of my ansers, onlie in words, (whereof he hath greater store then of mater).

8. He saith that I compeir at my awn hand, becaus, I have no warrand from Georg Halkhead, younger, to whom onlie that seate belongeth—I anser the sessioun of Kirkcaldie did acknowledge that the seate did belong to Georg

Halkhead, elder, when he was sent for and requyred to give his consent, etc. He addeth that he and the rest of the defenders has compeirit without a warrand from James Law, and thairfoir they will pass from thair compeirance—I anser that James Law is not the onlie partie we compleane upon, bot he and uthers with him, who sometyme hes all compeirit personallie, and sometimes Robert Frenche hes compeired for himself and for the rest. 9. He saith in the last place they will yet anser them, if the Presbytrie will ordaine them—I anser this man has said alreadie they have nothing to say. He addeth, I must anser punctuallie in such termes as therewith I will not be content—I anser this is the mans accustomed bragging and boasting, lyk the casteing of my dochters seat out of the churche, and I hope that this punctuall man ansering punctuallie sall not prove the man of whom the Poet sayeth *omne tulit punctum.*

I think the Presbytrie will not ordaine them to anser.

Replies for the parts of William Tenent John and James Colyears to the ansers produced for the parts of Doctor John Michaelsone, Georg Halkheads younger and elder anent the controverted seate.

First of all, where it is alledgit be Doctor John Michaelsone in name of Georg Halkhead elder and younger that we have proponit reasons to prove a negative and thairby saying our Lawier should have learnit this *ponenti et non inficianti incumbit onus probandi* and that he has proponit reasons for thair affirmative etc,—to the quhilk it is replyed that we have proponit ansers quhilk in effect we call and ar exceptions aganest sum pretended and frivilous reasons proponit for thair part for removeing of the seate, *lite pendente*, quhilks exceptions after your W. has considered them weill takes away the force and effect of any of the saids pretendit reasons and thairfoir neids no probation; we confess indeid that *affirmanti incumbit probatio* yit I am sure that Doctor John Michaelsone will confes that ane negative may be proven in case of necessitie albeit ane partie be not holden to prove ane and this we hope is cleir be the warrand of Gods word where St Paull says and proves that we ar not justified by the works of the law, and that quhilk is craved be Doctor John Michaelsone for removeing of the seat, *lite pendente*, is aganest all law, forme and equitie. 1. Thair is no such a law in our kirk *in rerum natura* as remove any seate, *lite pendente*. 2. It is aganes all forme and practise. 3. It is not equitable to doe anything contrar to law and practise as also we ar instructit to anser or defend ourselfs no farder bot in sua farr as we ar persowit be writt sua it is that we ar not persewit nor conveined befoir your W. to heir and sie the seate removed *lite pendente*, bot onlie to heir our act of sessioun reduced and declaired null as the claime or complaint maid be the persewers befoir your W. will testifie and quhat is craved be Doctor John Michaelsone is upon the request and desyre quhairupon he craves interloquitour, *lite pendente*, quhilk is to bring in some new noveltie in our kirk and speciallie upon us and upon the sessioun of Kirkcaldie quhairby it wold seem to him that thair is some deffect in the discipline of our kirk as yet bot hopes that notwithstanding the persewer presumes upon the credit of the Presbytrie because he is Moderator and ane of thair number to gett his request and desyre

obteinit and to gett the seate removed, *lite pendente*, as the persewers hes publicklie professed, and be that means cullers his process and desyre with our contempt of the Presbytrie, quhairof we protest heir, that we ar frie, and is ane thing verie unpertinent to the purpose, to mak us odious in ane mater quhairof we ar innocent. That your W. will have consideration heirof and not to bring in ane noveltie upon us more than upon uther kirk sessiouns for preventing of farther trouble, for we hope that we are not inferior to uthers and beseiks your Godlie W. that we may be sufferit to live in peace without any farder trouble. *Secundlie*—Where it is anserit be Doctor John Michaelsone that the sessioun of Kirkcaldie is not the contradictorie partie for thair intrest bot onlie the placers of the seate in respect of the alledgit deid done be them, the time of the act of suspensione—it is replyed that the samyn is no ways relevant nor of any force because the sessioun of Kirkcaldie ar makers and granters of the act of sessioun in favours of the defenders and that quhilk is craved in the first instance be the complaint is to heir the seate removed and the act declaired null and that I am sure that Doctor John Michaelsone will confess that the sessioun should have bein sowmonit for thair intrest quhilk never was done in the first instance. That quhilk is craved now is not conteined in the complaint bot onlie craved be way of request and not be way of citation and that if any pretended act of suspensione was granted I am sure that Doctor Michaelsone will confess that it should have borne to sowmond the parties and speciallie the granters of the act, for be the Lords of Counsell, thair suspensione thai caus sowmon the partie and the granters of any decreit for thair intrest as he and your W. will not deny, and we are sure that your W. will never sustein any pretendit act of suspensione informallie done, for the caus conteined in our former ansers quhairto we adhere, and speciallie naither we nor the sessioune be sowmonit to the discussing thairof quhilk is ane verie substantial poynt; and quhat neids Doctor Michaelsone crave ane novelite for removeing of our seate, *lite pendente*, seing we ar heir content to dispute the validitie and invaliditie baith of our act of sessioun and of the act of suspensioune and if our act be found invalide and ineffectuall and the reasons of his suspensioune of that force to tak away the vigour of our act of sessioun, we sall remove our seate *simpliciter* and not for a tyme and sa your Godlie W. may persave the equitie of the caus on our part and what is craved unreasonablie on the uther part, and if the said Mr John wald have process aganest the placers of the seatt, then it will not be aganest us, bot, aganest the wright and craftesman who placed the same. *Thirdlie*—Quhair the said Mr John alledges and ansers the act of sessioun was suspendit and thairfoir had no force, we replie that any decreit or sentence hes force ay and quhill the parties be sowmonit and lawfullie dischargit be ane officiar, bot so it is, that we wer never dischargit fra puteing our act in execution nor ever sowmonit to the discussing of the pretendit act of suspensioune; and quhair Doctor Michaelsone alledges the dispute is not about the act of sessioun, it is replyed that all the dispute results upon the act of sessioun and if it be not gud all will fall; and quhair he sayes our possession is aganest the ordinance of the Presbytrie, we replie our ordinance is according to the warrand of the act of sessioun and I am sure all judicious men will confess that

na suspensione takes away any maner of ryt or possesion untill the tyme the suspensione be dispute; and quhair he alledges interuption maid be Mr James Symeson etc, that is verie nakedlie anserit, for Mr James Symeson was the Judge to the makeing of our act of sessioun and was not officiar to discharge us or sowmon us to compeir befoir the presbytrie for any pretendit suspensioun, for that sould have bein done be the officiar, in name of the presbytrie. And quhair the said Mr John ansers that the act had na force when it was suspended and yet was not *lis ipsa* to remove the seate, *lite pendente*, bot onlie to remove it *simpliciter* and the sessioun should have bein sowmonit befoir the removeing of the seatt *simpliciter*; it is replyed that the act had force and must stand as ane sentence, ay and quhill it be reduced, notwithstanding of any pretendit suspensioune. The act must have force becaus as yet the suspensione is not yet discussed naither lawfullie mad nor execute as we have verie cleirlie befoir alledgit and proven we wald inquire of Mr John Michaelsone whider the Lords of Sessioun quhen they grant suspensione upon decreits if they sowmoned not the partie and lets the partie sie the suspensioun to the effect it may be dispute.

Fourthlie, Quhair it is anserit be the persewers that the sessioun gave no sich command as we have alledgit to put our seate etc., we replie we offer to prove the samyn in fortificatioun of our act of sessioun and so that quhilk Doctor Michaelsone alledges is ane negative; and quhair he ansers, put the caice, it had bein so it was suspendit; we replie as of befoir, that the suspensioun is null; and quair the said Doctor John Michaelsone ansret aganes the said George Halkhead his approbatioun of the act of sessioun that he was not cited to compeir onlie he was sent for and disascentit from the makeing of the act and thairfoir had no reason naither to appeall or to declyne we replie that this anser taks not away our exception bot if he was thair and disascentit that must be verified be writt; and quhair he says ane inferior may compleane to ane superior judge that we grant, bot we hope that is not practised be your W. that ye suspend lawfull acts of lawfull sessiouns to invert any gud order of our Kirk except baith parties be hard. And quhair it is anserit be Doctor Michaelsone that evill should not be done that gud may come of it; we replie, thair is no evill done to the partie and offers us to prove be our ministers and sessioun that it is for the gud and weill of our Kirk and ease of our people that this our seatt was placed befoir Georg Halkheads seatt. Bot we wish that Doctor John Michaelsone would give his partie his advyce to leave and desist fra trifles and to be more wyse and diligint in weightier maters quhilks concern both his owne weill and the weill of his neighbours, and that seat cannot be placed so commodiouslie to the weill of the people as quhair it stands presentlie.

And quhair it is anserit that we lay ane imputatioun upon the sessioun of partialitie that gave us so long tyme to advyse, bot dealt far utherwayes with Georg Halkhead we replie it is not ane imputatioun of partialitie but ane long suffering and patient dealing of them towards us to bring us over for removeing of our seatt fra the place quhair it first stoode.

And quhair it is anserit be Doctor John Michaelsone that seats ar removed by consent of partie, we replie we have removed no seate bot our owne, and Georg

Halkheads seate stands still in the same place quhair it hes bein thir fyftie years as he alledges naither had we any sic warrand to remove it, and we accept Doctor John Michaelsones confessioun *in quantum* quhair he graunts that the sessioun may ordaine seates to be placed ane befoir another, and they have done no uther thing, and quhair he ansers it maks for the sesioun, we replie it is ane warrand gud eneugh for us no to remove our seatt, *lite pendente*, for that quhilk Doctor John Michaelsone confesses may be lawfullie done be ane sessioun aught not to be unlawfullie suspendit be the Presbytrie. And quhair it is anserit that if thair be any sik acts maid in the kirk quhair magistrats and clerks of Burghs ar preferred in seatts befoir uthers the production thairof is urged and referrs the anser thairto to the Apostle S. James and if any such preferring of seates be it is not for the persons of men bot for thair office as to provosts and bailies of Burghs bot not due to clerks, we replie to the first part, that our exception is alternative, to wit, thair ar acts maid in favours of magistrates, at the least practised, and so neid no production in respect we content ourselves with the practise. And if any practise be as is grantit we ar sure that the meaning of the Apostle S. James is mistaken, for God who is the God of order is not the God of confusion, bot that thair mon be som places more eminent then ane uther and some persons in better respect then uthers and we believe the Apostles meaning is, that he condemns not that men should have some higher place then another, bot if men have place that it should not be with contempt of the poore, bot the place of itself is lawfull as we think.

And anent that contumelie and reproach he gives our clerk both there and in sundrie uther places we referr that to your W. consideration bot will not meit evill with evill and withall we think that Mr John Michaelsone, ane preacher of Gods word and reprover of vyce, should not be of that dispositioun.

Ansers to Mr John Michaelsones refutatione.

First, He alledges the seate was placed without a warrand becaus it was suspendit, we have alreadie alledgit and layd down grownds for elideing of the suspensioun quhilks wer tedious to repeat and repeats the samyn *ut concipitur* and quhair Mr John alledges that our former ansers ar idle words takeing upon us to teach the Presbytrie, the persute is indeid idle without any grownd, bot the ansers we ar sure as your W. will consider ar not idlie consaved. And quhair it is anserit that the Presbytrie will anser to thair own Judge for the validitie of thair act of suspensioun etc., we replie that we ar sure that the brethren will never sustein nor allowe of any such act unlawfullie maide, and farr less never execute, bot will have respect to ane lawfull sessioun and equitie. And quhair he ansers to that part that Presbytries hes no sic power, at the least not practised, that they suspend acts of ane lawfull sessioun he ansers, that is no uther thing bot *crambe recocta* we replie that we think *crambe recocta* is cold kaill twyse sodden, bot is not ane anser to the exceptioun for *crambe recocta* may serve to some use and is meit for some humors and constitutiouns of men. And quhair he ansers when the Lords of Sessioun grants ane suspensioun upon ane decreit of ane inferior Judge the citation is grantit without citation of the partie, the partie onlie having intrest to be cited to the discussing, we grant that the Lords of Sessioun doe so, bot it is not so in

civill maters as in ecclesiastike quhilk wer longsome to repeate. And quhair it is anserit that Doctor John Michaelson kytheit himself no more to ane partie then the tuo Ministers of Kirkcaldie who collectit the voits in the sessioun, we replie and sayes that this is not an anser to tak away our exceptioun, becaus the ministers of Kirkcaldie wer men unsuspectit and no exceptioun taken aganest them bot the makeing of the act of suspensioune was done be Doctor John Michelson quho had given partiall consell in that mater befoir. As to the second reason it merits no anser becaus we ar not disput any contempt of the Presbytrie becaus that is not to be discussit *hac instantia* and if he will alledge ane contempt, intend action, and we shall anser.

Thirdlie,—quhair it is anserit be Doctor John Michelson that maters in kirks possessit be the space of threttie years is valid, we replie that we tak not away his seatt nor his possessioun, bot he debarrs himself. And quhair he ansers that we alledge the warrand of the sessioun for elideing thairof lyk the song of the Cuckow, we replie that song may be turned over upon the persewers themselfs who repeat evermore ane unlawfull act of suspensioun for elideing of our act of sessioun and possessioun, and thairfoir *turpe est doctori quum culpa redarguit ipsum* as for anser to the rest of Mr John Michaelsons alledgeances merits nothing bot to dryve tyme and for anser repeats *praedicta.*

For Doctor John Michaelsone

The pinsell of Apelles was easilie knowne from the pinsell of a cowmon painter. Aristarches could easilie say, this verse is Homers, this is not. Servius could say the lyk concerning Plautus, and Erasmus had so quik a nose, especiallie in Jeromes works, that he could say, this Jerome wrote, this he wrote not. I doe not profess the lyk skill in the last writ given in be William Tenant for himself and for John and James Colyears yet I may affirm that these arrowes came not out of thair own quiver. The archer I think is some pleader at the barr in the courts halden within the Tolbooth of Kirkcaldie. David defending his fathers sheep had first adoe with a lyon then with a beare I must now mak readie aganest this new champion albeit the combat may seime more dangerous becaus,

Fortior in fulva novus est luctator arena
Quam cui sunt tarda brachia fessa mora.

First whairas thir men passed fra the compeirence be Robert Frenche and now comes in agane after a litle breathing having gotten some new schola to mak us afraide, it may be seine how these men play fast and leigh, and doe bot mock the Presbytrie. Yet he saith that a negative may be proven in a case of necessitie and that S. Paull he proves a negative that a man is not justified be works. I anser this man is ane evill disputer for Robert Frenche, for he hath alreadie said that thair is no necessitie heir to prove a negative ; and quhair he alledgeth that S. Paull proveth a negative, I anser the spirit of God in the Scriptur is not ordered by humane laws for it is a rule and maxim—*Argumentum ab authoritate scripturae in rebus fidei negative non sequitur* yet the Scriptur is accepted *nisi ab authoritate*

scripturae in rebus fidei nixt I anser the truth S. Paull proveth is ane affirmative, that a man is justified by the righteousnes of Christ belived without the works of the law. Bot I looked for greater quicknes in these quick wited men; they might have turned thair negative into ane affirmitive contriar to mine that thair seatt should stand still, *lite pendente.* In the third place albeit the man hes said that a negative may onlie be proven in the case of necessitie and that thair is no necessitie heir becaus thair exceptions aganest my reasons for the affirmative ar so strong that forgetting himself he begins to dispute for the negative, and first, he reasons thair is not a law to remove a seatt, *lite pendente*, nor yet a practice, I anser Licurgus made not a law to punish adulterers becaus ther had none bein such among the Lacedemonians. He saith they shuld anser onlie to the claime; the removing of the seatt, *lite pendente*, is not as he would say in our claim naither wer they cited to anser thairto. Thair is mustard after meate that is alledgit out of tyme, they have ansered alreadie to the reasons proponit for removeing the seate, *lite pendente*, the mater is at interloquitor.

He sayeth if we persewe the placers of the seatt we must persewe the wright etc. I anser heir the man will let us sie he can use sophistication. Solomon built the temple albeit craftsmen wrought the work with thair hands. This man reasons aganest my anser to the alledgit warrand of the act of sessioun that it had no force being suspendit; he says they wer not sowmonit nor dischargit be ane officiar, I anser they wer sowmonit, bot stayit the process be thair deid, and wer the cause of another process be thair disobedience to the voice of the kirk, and discharged they wer be thair own minister, bot this man ansereth he could not be ane officiar, I anser a kirk beddell or Reider or a brother of the Presbytrie may charge or discharge in name of the Presbytrie at the Presbytries command. If I should follow this man at the heales and anser all his words I should drall verie long for this mans tongue is more then the just measure full of repeatitiouns and tautologies; it is true of him what was said of one λαλειν αριςτος αδυνατω λεγειν τατος. He saith the act of the sessioun hes force and ontil it be reduced notwithstanding of the suspensioun, this is *petitio principii,* it is the thing he should prove bot will never be able to doe it. He speirs at me if quhen the Lords of the Sessioun grants a suspensioun they doe not sowmon the parties to heir the suspensioun discussit, I anser all parties having intrest in this mater wer lawfullie warraned. He enquyres again if ever the Lords of sessioun removes a man from his posessioun, *lite pendente*—I anser *a non facto ad non jus non valet consequentia.* I add that if a man after that a mater be suspendit sall intrude himself in possessioun the Lords no doubt will give order that he may be dispossessed, bot as the devill alledgit scriptur to Christ, so this man leaveth out a part of the teal. He affirmeth that the words of St James makes nothing for me, bot he considers not that Robert Frenche reasoned that becaus Georg Halkhead beareth no burden in the Towne, theirfoir his seatte may be lawfullie removed, to give place to uthers. He accuses me with contumelie and reproache aganest the town clerk.

My speech is this that albeit provosts and bailies in some towns ar preferit in places to others yet I know no such honour due to clerks of such Burghs as Kirkcaldie, except the men desyre more honour then thair office.

A Defence of the Refutatione etc.

This anser sayeth no new thing bot repeats agane *ad nauseam* the things alledgit be Robert Frenche quhilk I have sufficientlie anserit. This man craveth that the sessioun of Kirkcaldie should have the privilege of the Pope who claimeth that he cannot erre. He sayeth the act of the Presbytrie is ane unlawfull act this he affirms boldlie but proves it not. He sayeth it was not execute I anser this is true in respect that they proudlie contemned to obey it. He taxes my anser where I said that Robert Frenche his speech was *crambe recocta*, this is anserit be me upon this occasion. *First*, he said a Presbytrie should not suspend ane act of sessioun. *Secundlie*, he said that a Presbytrie should confirm all acts of sessiouns. *Thirdlie*, he said to suspend the act of a sessioun is to invert the order of a sessioun. *Fourthlie*, he said the Presbytrie has no power to suspend the act of a sessioun. I anser that this is *crambe recocta* becaus of the tedious repetition of one thing alreadie ansered. Heir he playes with his cold kaill twyse sodden and shewes his ignorance of the meaning of the proverb, bot I would ask him if *crambe recocta* be tuo words of Greik or Latine. He sayeth ane indiffirent judge would never have collectit voits in favours of sic ane unlawfull act. He might as weill say that the brether that voted had been indifferent they would not have consented to sick an unlawfull act. The man speaks lyke himself he had neid to washe his mouth. He sayes my second reason merits no anser etc., bot thair he forgets himself. Robert Frenche made anser to a part of my second reason quhilk I refuted. This man in the inscription of his papers promeisses to anser my refutation but slips from it. That which he sayes aganest my third reason is no other thing but a repetition of that quhilk is said be Robert Frenche quhilk I have sufficientlie refuted. He turns over upon me that which I said of Robert Frenche anent the song of the cuckoo ; repeating always one thing, viz. the act of sessioun ; he says that I repeat in lyke maner the act of suspensioun and so he triumphes *turpe est doctori* etc.

Dominare tumidus spiritus altos gere
Sequitur superbos victor a tergo Deus

Dysert, *October* 11, 1632

The whilk day being the first day of meiting after the Assemblie Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised for Doctor John Michaelsone . . . . . Mr Robert Litiljohn desyreing of the brethren that he might be admittit upon thair exercise : they assyne to him ane text to handell privatelie for his tryell viz John 5. 26.

Compeired David Chrystie, Bailie of Dysert craveing that he might have ane warrand of them for his relief of cawtionarie for Alexander Lathyrice in Dysert who is deteynit captive in the Spanish Galeyes.

The brethren promeises faithfullie that at the homecomeing of the said Alexander Lathyrice and David Kirkcaldie in Kingorne the moneyes collectit be them for that end salbe equalie devydit for thair reliefs as also that they sall have a caire that the rest that ar collectit be uther Presbytries shall be dispossed

upon after the same maner. Mr William Spittell shewing his distressed and pitifulle estait to the brethren be his letter craveing thair best counsell and concurrence for his relief the brethren takeing his distressed estaite to hart they direct Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Robert Cranstown tuo of thair number to goe to him to learne of him the truth of his debts that thai might deale therein the more redelie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 18.

The whilk day Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised . . . . . Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Robert Cranstowne reported that they had conferred with Mr William Spittell anent his debts who shew them that aught hundredth merks will pay them all. The brethren promeises to do themselfs as also to deale with these of thair congregations as ar best affected for his redress. Mr David Anderson payit the Burser of Theologie. All the brethren payit the Burser of Theologie except Kingorne and Weyms who promeisses to pay shortlie. Compeired Marion Blair quadrilapse in fornication : ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress : resaved hir first injunctions. Compeired ane Alexander Jamesone, ane tinkler, desyreing baptisime to ane bairne of his quhilk is borne to him in Burntiland be his maryed wyff as he alledges. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Andro Michaelsone thair present to baptise samyn. The brethren requests the Parson of Dysert and Mr James Symeson to deall with the Cownsell of Dysert that they would give thair band to Alexander Browne of Edr for the relief of Alexander Lathrice thair captive as Kingorne had done for the other. Mr Robert Cranstowne declaired to the brethren that he had gotten ane warrand from my Lord Archbishop of St Androis to get institution to the kirk of Skunie. The brethren desyres him to deale with any brother who may most convenientlie goe to resave him.

DYSERT, *October* 25.

The whilk day Mr David Martin exercised . . . . . Mr Robert Litiljohn handled the place of scriptur assignit to him. Doctrin censured and allowed. They appoynt him to handle the Cowmonhead *De Peccato Originali* for his further tryell. The brethren shew that thai had begunn to deale for Mr William Spittells relief.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 1, 1632.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, Your., exercised. . . . . William Lindsay adulterer with Kathren Douglas gave in ane humble petition desyreing his tyme of repentance to be schortened, in respect of his great povertie and inhabillitie to stay heir for povertie. The brethren continews thair anser to a more frequent meiting.

DYSERT, *November* 8.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill exercised . . . . . William Lindesayes petition continewed to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 15, 1632.

The whilk day Mr David Anderson exercised . . . . . William Lindesay repentance, anent the tyme of it, referred to the ministers of Kirkcaldie.

The Parson of Dysert produced ane act of thair sessioun shewing the unwillingnes thairof to have Mr William Spittell continued with them in his ministrie. The Presbytrie refers the mater to the Archbishope as impertinent to them, desyreing the Parsone and the people of Dysert to deale with the Bishop for his transportation. The brethren appoynts these who hes thair moneyes in reddiness for reliefe of Mr William Spittell, to bring it with them the nixt day. The Moderator excused his last four dayes absence by being sick or ells over the water. Accepted.

DYSERT, *November* 22.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised. . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown shew that he had ane hundreth punds in reddines for the relief of Mr William Spittell, and that Mr Frederik Carmichel had twentie dollars. Mr Andro Fairfull declaired that he had ane hundreth merks, whilk extends to the sowme of thrie hundreth and fyftie merks laikeing 3 dollars whilk they promeiss also to make out. William Lindesay resaved his first injunctions for his adulterie committed with Kathren Douglas.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 29.

The whilk day Mr Andro Fairfull exercised. . . . . Mr Robert Litiljohn gave in his *theses* and is to handel the Cowmonehead the nixt day *de peccato originali.* Mr John Tullus payit the Burser of Theologie. The Moderator delyvered ane letter dyrect from my Lord Archbishop of St Androis desyreing them to convene Mr William Spittell befoir them (so soon as he sallbe releived from ward), and discharge him to preache any more within thair bownds as being not expedient.

DYSERT, *December* 6.

The whilk day Mr Robert Litiljohn handled the cowmonehead *De Peccato Originali*, and susteinit disputatiouns thereupon. The brethren ar content of his tryels alreddie given, and admits him upon thair publick exercise.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 13.

The whilk day Doctor Andro Lawmonth exercised. . . . .

DYSERT, *December* 27.

The whilk day Mr Frederik Carmichell exercised. . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell excused his last dayes absence by necessarie visitatioun of some sick person. Accepted.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 3, 1633.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the absence of the brother that should have exercised. Mr Alexander Scrimgeor produced ane letter from Mr

William Struthers minister at Edr togidder with the copie of ane letter sent from these of the Pallatinat shewing the receipt of ane thousand punds stirling from the Kirk of Scotland rendering gryt thanks thairfoir declairing the continuance of their miserie and desyreing the continuance of our collection and charitie.

The Moderator excused his former absence by reason of sicknes, foull weather, and being over the water also. Mr Thomas Melvill excused his last thrie dayes absence by reasonable excuses. All accepted. The exercise continued upon Mr Thomas Powtie and Mr Robert Cranstown and the clerk to advertyse Mr Thomas Powtie. Mr James Symeson takes upon him to shew to Mr William Spittell the Bishops letter desyreing the brethren to discharge him to preache in thair bounds.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 17.

The whilk day Mr Robert Litiljohn exercised . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown excused his former absence by being attending upon his father, and provideing for his buriall. Mr James Miller shew the letters concerning these of the Pallatinat to the Presbytrie who promeise diligence in thair collections.

Mr Robert Cranstown delyverit ane copie of the new Psalme book to the Presbytrie to be perused and considerit be them. Agnes Hogg may mary satisfieing the kirk.

DYSERT, *Januari* 24, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Robert Douglas exercised . . . . . Compeired James Law of Markinche paroshin confessing adulterie with Janet Fairlie his owne servand: resaved his first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 31.

The whilk day Mr John Tullus exercised . . . . . The Parson of Dysert added.

Februar 7.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the tempestuous wind the lyk whereof hes not bein sein in our bownds.

DYSERT, *Februar* 14.

The whilk day the parson of Dysert exercised . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie delyverit ane letter from the Archbishope of St Androis sheweing that he had given him ordination to the kirk of Portmooke desyreing the brethren to send some of thair number to resave him minister at the said kirk. They appoynt Mr John Chalmer, elder, to preach thair, and Mrs Thomas Powtie and David Anderson to concurr.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 21, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelson exercised . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie shew that his resaveing was continewed to the nixt Sabbath in respect Mr John Chalmer who should have taught was not at home. Mr William Spittell shew his relaxa-

tion from all the horneings that wer led aganest him also he produced ane letter from my Lord Archbishope of St Androis shewing that he was utherwayes mindit now nor he was when he wrote the last letter concerning him and remitts his preacheing and exerciseing of his ministrie in Dysert to the Presbytrie. Mr Frederik Carmichell excused his last dayes absence by having the gutt. Accepted.

DYSERT, *Februar* 28.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised. . . . . Mr John Litiljohn takes upon him to handel the Cowmonehead, *De Causis Electionis.* Compeired David Symeson of Monturpie, David Crystie of Stentone, and Robert Symeson, Burgess of Dysert, and gave in ane complaint aganest Mr William Spittell conteining fyftein articles of accusatioun (or greiveances as thai terme them), to prove Mr William his unmeitness to be thair minister, having thair warrand (as they alledge) from the sessioun in whose name they affirm they come. The said Mr William Spittel protested that the Parson sit not as Moderator in this bussines, but that he may be removed as partie aganest him with the rest, also that the articles given in aganest him may ayther be subscrybit be the presenters, or ells taine up again.

They refuse to subscrybe them : Monturpie taks them up. Mr William Spittell compleans upon Mr John Litiljohn, reider at Dysert, as ane cheif agent in that bussines as he shall prove aganest him, desyreing that he may have process aganest him, whilk was grantit.

March 7.

The whilk day Mr Robert Litiljohn exercised. . . . . Mr William Spittell gave in ane endorsat precept, shewing that John Hutton, Kirk Officiar of Dysert, had sowmonit Mr John Litiljohn to exhibit and produce ane subscribed lybell of accusatiouns conteyning divers calumnies given in aganest the said Mr William Spittell, whilk subscriptiouns (as he alledges) was purchased be the said Mr John at least some of them. The said Mr John desyred that the mater may be continewed to the nixt day, at what tyme he is to give in his defences.

Compeired David Symeson of Monturpie, David Chrystie of Stentone, Georg Halkhead, Bailie of Dysert, John Symeson and Archibald Symeson, Burgesses of Dysert, giving in the foirsaid lybell of accusatiouns aganest Mr William Spittell, affirming that they will byd by the samyn and prove the said lybell.

The said persons produced ane letter from the Archbishope of St Androis, desyreing the brethren to advyse Mr William Spittell not to preache in Dysert, or if he will not be advysed, to discharge him to preache thair till some cours wer taken betwixt him and the towne for setling of some divisions that ar betwixt him and the towne, haveing seine (as he writts) ane minute of complaints given in aganest the said Mr William. The brethren considering that the Bishop being informit be one partie onlie, hes written so, and thairfoir hes resolved to writt to the Bishope and to informe him further. Janet Fairlie, adulteress with James Law resaved hir first injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *March* 14, 1633.

The whilk day Mr John Litiljohn exercised. . . . . The Moderator excused his last tuo dayes absence, being stormested in Leyth the one day, and be the greatnes of the wind the uther day. Accepted.

Mr William Spittell produced ane letter from the Archbishop of St Androis, desyreing the brethren to tak the best cours anent the setling of the maters of Dysert betwixt the said Mr William and the towne, and to send one of thair number to Dysert to preache thair the nixt Sabbath, and to exort them to peace and unitie. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Robert Douglas to goe thither the nixt Sabbath for that effect. The Presbytrie gives David Symeson of Monturpie, and David Chrystie, bailie of Dysert thair, lybell aganest Mr William Spittell up again as most fitting for the B. himself, who is to tak order thereanent. Michel Ramsay ane tinkler, desyred of the Presbytrie that he might have ane bairne of his baptised whilk is borne in Dysert be his maryt wyff (as he affirms). The Presbytrie appoynts the Parson of Dysert to baptise the said bairne.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 21.

The whilk day Mr John Litiljohn exercised. . . . .

DYSERT, *March* 28.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, younger, exercised . . . . . The Moderator urged the Cowmonehead. Mr John Litiljohn promeises to handel the samyn befoir the nixt Assemblie. The whilk day David Symeson of Monturpie gave in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie that they wald give them process anent the articles given in be some of Dysert aganest Mr William Spittell.

The said Mr William declynes the Presbytrie as judges competent in that mater and is to give in the reasons of his declinator this day fyftein dayes. Compeired Margaret Mean in the congregation of Lesslie *quinquies lapsa* in fornication and resaved hir first injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 4, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Mearns exercised . . . . .

DYSERT, *Aprill* 11.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown exercised . . . . . Mr William Spittell passes from his declinator from the Presbytrie and is content that all controversies betwixt him and some of the people of Dysert be hard considerit and judged be them.

David Symeson of Monturpie compeiring is to give in his complaint the nixt day. Robert Spens his petition anent some support for his relief from the Turks of Argier is referred to the Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 18.

The whilk day Mr John Litiljohn handled the Cowmonehead *De Causis Electionis.* Disputations continewed to the nixt day.

Compeired William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, and Margaret Law thair, being referred from the sessioun of Kirkcaldie for contineweing in thair slanderous behaviour of adulterie after divers admonitiouns to desist and leave uthers companie and after thai wer dischargit others companie both be the sessioun and Presbytrie whose acts the Presbytrie declairs them to have violat and thairfoir the Presbytrie ordaines them to sitt thrie several Sabbaths upon the stoole of publick repentenance each one of them tuo dayes in thair owne habite and the third in sack clowth for thair adulterous behaviour. Mr David Anderson and Master Thomas Powtie declaired that they with Mr Thomas Melvill went to Portmooke upon the 24 day of Februar last bypast and thair resaved Mr Harie Wilkie, minister of the said kirk. Mr Robert Cranstown desyred of the brethren that aither they wold all come and visit the Kirk of Skunie, that thairby they might tak inspection of the Manss, and consider the estaite of the samyn, or ells that thai wald appoynt some of thair number to goe thither for that effect. The Presbytrie appoynts the Parson of Dysert, the ministers of Lesslie, Mr Frederik Carmichel and Mr John Tullus, to goe thair upon the said Mr Roberts advertysement.

DYSERT, *April* 25.

The whilk day Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised . . . . . Compeired Janet Hunter adulteress with Robert Watt in the Paroshe of Auchtertule reseaved hir last injunctions. Memorandum to tak some course for handling the Cowmonehead after the Assemblie. Resaved ane letter from my Lord of St Androis desyreing these who hes not delyverit thair collections for these of the Pallatinat to bring it with them as also to desyre David Symeson of Monturpie to desist from the persute of Mr William Spittell.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 9, 1633.

The whilk day Mr David Martin exercised . . . . . Question proponed anent the satisfaction for fornication committed be Alexander Lowrie in the parosh of Portmook with Janet Page in the parosh of Kinglessie where they shall mak thair repentance having committed fornication in both parochins (as is alledgit). Anserit, the man shall in his owne Parochine and the woman in hir Parochine. Question proponed what punishment shall be inflicted upon charmers. Anserit they shalbe maid to mak thair repentance. Kathren Douglas adulteress with William Lindesay compeiring resaved hir last injunctions. William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie produceing ane letter from my Lord of St Androis anent order takeing with his repentance and Margaret Laws for thair adulterous behaviour, the Presbytrie continews in thair former judgement and ordaines the Kirk Beddell of Kirkcaldie to sowmond in thair names to begin his repentance and promeisses to give the Bishop satisfactioun thairanent.

DYSERT, *May* 16.

The whilk day the Moderator exercised . . . . . Compeired Kathren Vallange compleaning upon the sessioun of Kingorne who refuses to give hir process aganest David Mortone in Kingorne for slandering hir husband alledgeing him to have stollen iron windoes furth of the towre of the Seyfeild perteineing to my Lord of Innerteyle.

Mr Alexander Scrimgeor declaired that my Lord of Innerteyle had sent ane letter to thair sessioun shewing that he was myndit to persue the mater criminallie. The presbytrie desyres Mr Robert Douglas to speak to my Lord of Innertyle anent that mater. Anent the handleing of the Cowmonehead the Moderator takes upon him to begin and handel the head *De Causis Electionis et Reprobationis* and the rest promeises to follow and ordaines all maters Presbyteriall shall ceass that day except the disputations.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 30.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer exercised . . . . . The Moderator shew ane charge to delyver the moneyes collectit be the towne and Parochin of Kirkcaldie for the distressed people of the Pallatinat within fyftein dayes under the paine of horneing. The ministers of Kirkcaldie promeisses to delyver the samyn. Margart Law in Kirkcaldie gave in ane supplicatioun to the brethren desyreing them to frie hir of thair sentence pronounced aganest hir for adulterous behaviour with William Young promeisseing to absteine from his companie in tyme comeing.

They continue thair anser till they heir also of the mans offer. Henri Miller elder in Kirkcaldie offerit himself to becom caution that Bessie Orrok his nurce shall satisfie the Kirk disciplin of Burntiland for hir fornication so soone as the bairne shall be weyned. The Presbytrie accepts of his offer. Mr Robert Douglas reportit that he had spoken with my Lord of Innertyle who said to him that he had nothing aganest Robert Mackgillan bot desyred that the Presbytrie wald continew to give any process anent the mater till he should use some tryell thairanent. Mr John Chalmer, younger, proponed that James Abercrombie might be hard the nixt day to anser for his disobedience to the Kirk anent his seate.

DYSERT, *Junii* 6, 1633.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised . . . . . Compeired James Abercrombie to anser for his disobedience to the Kirk of Auchterdirran. Professes plainlie he will niver obey. The brethren desyres Mr John Chalmer to enter in ane formal process aganest him in thair sessioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 13.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised . . . . . The exercise is intermitted for the space of fyftein dayes, in respect of the Kings comeing to the Cuntrie. Mr

Gilbert Thom being to enter upon the exercise, resaved the 4 Chapter of the Epistle to Gallatians at the beginning to handel for his tryell. Compeired William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, gave in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie desyreing them to frie him of thair sentence pronounced aganest him, etc.

They continew thair anser to a more frequent meitting. Compeired Robert Watt, adulterer with Jean Hunter: resaved his last injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *Julii* 4.

The whilk day Mr David Anderson exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 18, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Powtie exercised. Compeired Janet Murdo adultress with Robert Barbour (she having ane husband living sailling with the Hollanders): resaved hir first injunctions. Compeired James Law adulterer with Janet Fairlie: resaved his last injunctions. Ordaines William Young and Margart Law to be sowmonit to the nixt day to resave anser to thair supplicatiouns.

Compeired James Wylie and Janet Strengthie, who being maryed and cannot agree, compleaning eache upon uther, the brethren exorts tham to concord, and requests the Parson of Dysert to deall with them to reconceill them.

DYSERT, *Julli* 25.

The whilk day Mr Andro Fairfull exercised. . . . . William Young and Margaret Law being sowmonit for thair slanderous behaviour againe: called, compeired not. To be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. Compeired Margaret Kirkland, parochiner of Auchterdirran, confessing adulterie with William Anderson thair: resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 1.

The whilk day Doctor Andro Lawmonth exercised. Mr Robert Cranstown declaired that thair was ane gryt number of men fishing upon the water of Leven upon the Sabbath last. The Presbytrie ordaines that they be taine order with.

DYSERT, *August* 8, 1633.

The whilk day Mr William Spittell exercised. . . . . William Young and Margaret Law being sowmonit, compeired not. To be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Compeired Katren Vallange, craveing of the Presbytrie that she may have process aganest David Mortone, for slandering hir husband of thift. The Presbytrie grants the samyn to hir and ordaines ane precept to be written for sowmoneing the said David to the nixt day.

Compeired Elspet Andersone confessit adulterie with Patrik Wemys in the Weyms: resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 15.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstowne exercised . . . . . Compeired Margaret Law for the afoirsaid slander of adulterie with William Young, baxter.

The Presbytrie in respect of the continuance of the slander and increase of it remaines in thair former judgement anent thair satisfaction and ordeanes them to be proceeded aganest.

Compeired John Ingles and protested that the Presbyterie should doe nothing prejudiciall to my Lord of Innerteill in persute of the action of slander persued be Robert Mackgullan and his spouse aganest David Mortone.

Compeired Mr Thomas Bigger witness in the said mater of slander persewit by Robert Mackgullan aganest David Mortone who being admittit and sworne deponed that he hard the said David Mortone say that Robert Mackgullane should have more shame of my Lord Innerteyles iron then he should have of any seid that ever he sowed. Compeired also Symon Robertsone witness in the said mater admitted and sworne deponed that he hard David Mortone say that he caryed iron of Robert Mackgullans to Moyes Hill. Symone Chrystie and Robert Orrok uther tuo of the witnesses being sowmonit, not compeirand is ordeined to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2, also Archbald Cambell for refusing to sowmon them. Mr John Balvaird desyreing that he may be admitted upon the publick exercise offers himself to be tryed and resaved for text to be hard privatelie John 3, 16.

Robert Barbour adulterer with Janet Murdoe in the Parochine of Leslie: resaved his first injunctions.

DYSERT, *August* 22.

The whilk day the Parson of Dysert exercised . . . . . Compeired William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie to heir the Presbyteries anser anent the supplicatioun given in be him to them for freeing of him and Margaret Law from thair sentence given out aganest them for thair adulterous behaviour. The Presbytrie thairfoir in respect of the contewance and dailie grouth of the said slander remaines in thair former judgement and ordaines the ministers of Kirkcaldie to proceed aganest them accordinglie.

Compeired Archbald Cambell, kirk officiar of Kingorn, rebuked and censured for refuseing to sowmed the witnesses at Robert Mackgullans instance promeised never to doe the lyk again. Absolvit. The said Archbald also being sowmonit as ane witness for proveing the slander persewit be Robert Mackgullan aganest David Mortone being not now reiplie advysed anent quhat he hard in that mater is sowmonit *apud acta* to the nixt day for that effect. David Mortone compeiring confessit and affirmed that he caryt iron of Robert Mackgullans to the smith in Moyes Hill to mak uther work of it whilk was of the Seyfeild iron utherwayes he should be content to suffer for it etc.: sowmonit to be present the nixt day. Symon Christie and Robert Orrok tuo of the witnesses being sowmoned, called: compeired not. Ordained to be summonit to the nixt day pro 3.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 29, 1633.

The whilk day Mr John Tullus exercised . . . . . Compeired Robert Orrok witness in the mater of slander persewed be Robert Mackgullan aganest David Mortone who being admitted and sworne deponed that he hard the said David say that he caryed ane burden of iron of Robert Mackgullane to Moyes Hill. Symon Crystie being 3 sowmonit and not compeireing is ordained to be sowmonit publicklie out of the pulpet the nixt Sabbath to compeir the nixt Thursday under the paine of disobedience, and ordaines Mr Alexander Scrimgeor to sowmon him publicklie to that effect.

Archbald Cambell and David Mortone to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Mr John Balvaird handled the text assignit to him. The brethren praise God for him and gives him ane uther text viz. Ephes 4, 1.

DYSERT, *September* 5.

The whilk day Mr William Spittell exercised . . . . . Compeired Patrik Weyms in the Parochine of Weyms confessed his adulterie with Euphan Anderson his servant: resaved his first injunctions.

Compeired David Mortone confessit that he said that his seide was als leall come as the iron staunchers of the Seyfeild iron was that he caryed of Robert Mackgullanes to the smith in Moyes Hill to mak choppeing knyves of. Compeired Symon Crystie admittit and sworne witness in the said mater deponed that he hard the said David say the foirsaid words. The whilk day compeired Archbald Cambell admittit and sworne deponed that the said David said in his heiring that Robert Mackgullan should have more shame of my Lord of Innerteyles iron, then he should have of any seid he ever sowed. The said David Mortone abyds by his confessioun and offers him to prove that he himself caryed the afoirsaid iron, and that it was iron of the Seyfeild to the smith in Moyes Hill to make uther work of it to Robert Mackgullanes uss and designes witnesses for proveing of the samyn, viz., James Hugon in Kingorn, William Colyear thair, and James Finlasone in Moyes Hill. The Presbytrie assignes this day aught dayes to him for proveing the samyn.

Compeired Agnes Buntine in the Paroche of Dysert quadrilapse in fornication with four several men: resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 12.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelsone exercised . . . . . David Mortone com peireing and not causeing sowmond his witnesses for proveing of these speeches uttered be him aganest Robert Mackgullen is ordained aither to prove the samyn the next day or ells to secumb in the said mater and be punished as ane slanderer. The Presbytrie appoynts to intimat ane fast the nixt Sabbath to be keiped the Sabbath following as for the particular causes they remitt them to the ministers owne considerations. Compeired Margaret Law for the former slander of adulterie betwixt William Young, baxter, and hir: the said Margaret denyes that thair is such a thing.

Compeired Elspet Murisone, hir owne servand, also Georg Browne and Geills Allardyce admittit, and sworne witnesses in the said mater deponed as follows:—*In primis* the said Elspet Muirisone depones that on the last Saturday bygone, William Yonng was in the said Margaret Laws hous, and that the said Elspet said to him, Except yee go your wayes, I shall goe and tell the gud man hir father; whereupon the said William went his wayes and hir mistress discordit with hir.

Secondlie, the said Elspet deponed that William Young was in Margaret Laws hous upon Wednesday after the first communion day, and he and Margaret went up to the laft togither, for he said he was going to end some compts with hir.

Thirdlie, the said Elspet deponed that upon that Wednesday (she thinks it was) that Mr James Symesons wyff was delyverit of ane bairne the said William Young, baxter, was in Margaret Laws hous. She saw him standing nakit on the floore who said to hir (when she had cryd ben to hir mistress), Fye upon you, for that labour; whoore that thou art, thou art bot angrie becaus thou hes not gotten it thyself. All thir foirsaid speeches, the said Elspeth affirmed in the said Margaret Lawes face, and confirmed them be hir great oath. Georg Browne admittit and sworne, deponed that Margaret Law confessit in his hous that William Young was in hir hous upon the last Saturday bygon. Geills Allardyce admittit and sworne deponed that when hir servand Elspet Murisone had affirmed thir speeches aganest hir in thair hous: the said Margaret could not denye it. The said Georg Browne, and Geills Allardyce also deponed that when Margaret Law went out of thair hous immediatelie after thir speeches with hir servand, and then when she was going foorth at the dur, she said, William Young salbe weelcome to my hous come when he will, and I shall drie for it. The brethren desyres the ministers of Kirkcaldie to proceed aganest them according to the ordinance given out aganest them. Mr John Chalmer craving the brethrens opinion anent James Abercrombies contempt of thair kirk and kirk dicipline desyres him (as befoir), to proceed aganest him be the censures of the kirk.

DYSERT, *September* 19.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised. . . . . David Mortone being called to have proven the speeches uttered be him and confessed be him, and proven aganest him in the mater of the slander persued be Robert Mackgullan aganest him, compeired not, and thairfoir is ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day to heir the sentence pronounced aganest him for slandering the said Robert. Mr John Balvaird handled the place of Scriptur committed to him, viz., Eph., 4, 1, with approbation. The brethren ar content to admitt him upon thair publick exercise.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 26.

The whilk day Doctor John Michelsone handled the Cowmonehead, *De Electione Æterna*, text, Eph., 1, 4. Doctrin censured and allowed.

Compeired David Mortone to heir the sentence pronounced aganest him for slandering Robert Mackgullan. The Presbytrie ordaines him to come befoir the pulpet of Kingorn, and thair to acknowledge his fault in slandering of Robert

Mackgullan, and to crave God and the said Robert pardon for the samyne. Mr Thomas Melvill excused his absence thir certaine dayes of his absence since the beginning of August, in respect of his attendance upon the reparation of the fabrik of thair kirk. Acceptit. The Presbytrie appoynts the nixt day of meiting for thair disputatiouns upon the *Theses*.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *October* 10.

The whilk day Mr John Litiljohn exercised. . . . . The Laird of Newhall in the Parochine of Kennoquhie compeireing demanding some questions anent the chuseing of the elders and distribution of the poore folks money in Kennoquhie, the Presbytrie appoynts Doctor Andro Lawmonth and Mr Robert Cranstown to goe to Kennoquhie and trye the maters controverted upon betwixt the Laird and the minister, and to agree them, and report thair anser. Compeired Kathren Vallange compleaning that Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, minister at Kingorn, will not put thair decreit in execution aganest David Mortone for slandering hir husband Robert Mackgullan. The Presbytrie ordaines him to put the samyne to execution and the Clerk to writt to him to that effect, and to desyre him to keip the Presbytrie better then he dois.

Ordains William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, to be sowmonit to the nixt day and Margaret Law thair, to heir themselves decernit contumaces in not obeying the decreit of the Presbytrie given out aganest them for thair adulterouss behaviour.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 17.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, younger, exercised. . . . . The Parson of Dysert reported that he with Doctor Andro Lawmonth and Mr Robert Cranstown having tryed all maters in question betwixt the Laird of Newhall and Mr Frederik Carmichel, they fund all the Lairds aledgeances to be nothing, and he to have secumed in all, and all that Mr Frederik had said to be true. William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, and Margaret Law thair, compeiring, wer declaired to be contumaces in not obeying the Presbytries decreit aganest them for thair adultrouss behaviour, and ordaines the minister of Kirkcaldie to proceed aganest them to excommunicatioun except they obey.

Walter and Robert Hunters, parochiners in Markinche, being sowmonit be thair minister, compeiring, continewed, in respect thair minister is not present to tell the caus of thair sowmondeing.

The Presbytries judgement being sought anent the process of witchcraft aganest William Coke and Alison Dick, his spous, they continew it to a more frequent meiting.

DYSERT, *October*, 24.

The whilk day Mr John Balvaird exercised . . . . . Compeired Kathren Vallange spous to Robert Mackgullan in Kingorn compleaneing upon Mr Alexander Scrimgeor minister at Kingorn for that he will not put the Presbytries decreit

aganest David Mortone to execution for slandering hir husband. The Presbytrie ordeanes the said Mr Alexander to put the said decreit to execution and to come himself to the Presbytrie the nixt day and ordeanes the Clerk to writt to him so.

Compeired Robert Barbour adulterer with Janet Murdo in the parochine of Leslie craveing of the Presbytrie that the dayes of his satisfaction may be schortned in respect he is to goe out of the countrie to Ingland thair to remaine after Mertines. The Presbytrie grants his petition and he resaved his last injunctions. Margaret Mean quadrilapse in fornicatlon having satisfied as ane adultress, resaved hir last injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 31.

The whilk day Mr Patrick Mearnes exercised, Mr James Symeson added. Doctrin censured and allowed. . . .

DYSERT, *November* 7.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson exercised. John Anderson adulterer with Elspet Gudlad resaved his first injunctions. Compeired Kathren Vallange compleaneing that Mr Alexander Scrimgeor had resaved David Mortone who had not humblie confessit his fault in slandering hir husband as he was ordained bot had made the mater worss. The Presbytrie ordeanes the Clerk to writt to him to be present the nixt day that he may be hard. Mr John Litiljohn craved of the Presbytrie that he might have ane testimonial to his brother Mr Robert who is now in Edr. The Presbytrie grants the samyne and desyres the Clerk to writt it.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 14.

The whilk day Mr Robert Douglas exercised . . . . . Compeired Kathren Vallange spous to Robert Mackgullan compleaneing that David Mortone who was ordained to make his repentance for slandering of the said Robert had not satisfied as he was ordained bot had made the mater worss. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to be sowmonit to the nixt day. The Parson of Dysert is to teach the nixt day in respect that William Coke and Alison Dick his spous ar to be put to ane tryell for witchcraft.

DYSERT, *November* 21, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michaelson exercised . . . . . David Mortone being sowmonit called compeired not : ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. with certification.

Robert Mackgullan process with James Stocks for slandering him being referred to the Presbytrie and the questioun moved be the sessioun whidder James Stocks be ane slanderer or not the Presbyterie considering the process find James Stocks to have slandered Robert Mackgullan in affirming slanderous things of him whilk he is no able to qualifie and thairfoir ought to be punished as ane slanderer and also finds that the sessioun of Kingorne hes done wrong in resaveing of James Hugowne witness aganest Robert Mackgullan in respect they ar under Lawburrowes togither and the said Robert objectit aganest him in the instant time.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 28.

No exercise in respect Mr Alexander Scrimgeor who should have exercised was absent. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 5.

The whilk day Mr Alexander Scrimgeor exercised . . . . . The patent grantit for the relief of John Balcanquhills compaine being sein and read to the brethren they promeiss thair diligence thereanent.

Mr John Chalmer, younger, shew the process be his father aganest James Abercrombie to the Presbytrie beareand that he hes been thryse sowmoned privatelie and thryse publicklie under the paine of disobedience and yet hes given no obedience. The Presbytrie desyres him the nixt day to compeir and heare himself convicted of contumacie and thair efter (he remaineing disobedient) to proceid aganest him with excommunicatioun.

DYSERT, *December* 12.

Mr John Balvaird exercised . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichael sent ane person shewing that he had excommunicat Kathren Fyell for disobedience to the kirk. The brethren desyres himself to be present nixt day.

Compeired Janet Murdo, adulteress, in the parochin of Leslie, and resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 19.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer exercised . . . . . Compeired Kathren Fyell acknowledged hir sinne of disobedience to the kirk, craved God pardone for it, desyred that she might be resaved in the bodie of the Kirk agane: referred to Mr Frederik Carmichel, who excommunicate hir.

Compeired John Colyear, James Law, Henrie Miller, craveing favour anent Margt. Law: continewed to ane more frequent meiting.

DYSERT, 26, 1633.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill exercised . . . . . Mr James Miller added. Doctrin censured and allowed.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 9, 1634.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised . . . . . David Mortone in Kingorne being twyse sowmonit, called: compeired not: ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 3. Anent the supplicatioun of the mitigation of Margt. Laws repentance, the Presbytrie remaynes in thair former judgement.

DYSERT, *Januar* 23.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelsone exercised . . . . . Mr David Anderson proponeing ane question whidder a man haveing committed fornication with ane

woman, no bairn forth brought, and satisfying thairfoir the woman, alledgeing promeiss of mariag upon him he purgeing himself of all promeis if she may stay his mariag. Anser, not except she pursew him orderlie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januar* 30, 1634.

The whilk day Doctor Andro Lawmonth exercised . . . . . The Presbytrie ratifies thair judgement anent Margart Laws satisfactioun.

Februar 6.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of Mr Thomas Powties absence, being over the water. Compeired John Will in the paroche of Kirkcaldie for goeing to the border of Ingland and maryeing ane woman thair, be John Fairbairne in Cornhill. The Presbytrie disalloweing the said mariage ordaines them to mak thair repentance befoir the pulpett of Kirkcaldie. Mr Frederik Carmichel declaired that one William Meldrum in the Paroche of Kennoquhie haveing committed fornication with Barbara Dryburgh though confessit be them both, the man designeing ane tyme when he first lay with hir, bot the woman wold condescend upon no tyme, bot affirms the bairne that she is with, to be his: demands how he shall resave his repentance.

The brethren thinks best that he resave them not till the woman be delyverit.

DYSERT, *Februar* 13, 1634.

The whilk day the Parson of Dysert exercised. . . . . David Mortone in Kingorne being sowmonit for the 3 tyme to compeir befoir the Presbytrie for the unjust slandereing of Robert Mackgullan: called, compeired not. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to be sowmonit openelie out of the pulpett to give obedience under the paine of disobedience.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 20.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised . . . . . Compeired David Leitch brothers son to Mr David Leitche minister at Dundrenan, who produced ane patent direct from the secret Counsell for the relief of his uncle who had hous and all his geare burnt. The brethren promieses to intimat the samyn to thair parochiners. David Mortone being publicklie sowmonit, *pro primo* compeiring, is ordained to confess his fault of slandering Robert Mackgullan, as he was ordained under the paine of contumacie and consequentlie of excommunicatioun, and ordaines the Minister of Kingorne to sowmon him publicklie to that effect under the paine of disobedience.

DYSERT, *Februar* 27.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Powtie exercised. . . . . Alexander Symeson, bailie of Dysert, produced ane letter from my Lord Archbishop of St Androis, requesting for some contribution for the reparation of thair harborie. The brethren present promesis diligence.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 13.

Thair was no exercise the last day, in respect of the absence of the brother who should have exercised, whilk was the reason of the foull wether. William Williamson produced ane warrand from my Lord of St Androis for collecting ane contributioun in his diocies for the relief of John Balcanquhills companie, who ar taine captive be the Turks. The brethren promeiss to intimat the samyne to thair people. The Moderator read ane letter that he had gotten from my Lord Archbishop of St Androis, willing him to shewe to the Presbytrie, bot in special to the minister of Kirkcaldie, that they leave off to trouble Margaret Law any further for hir slanderous behaviour of adulterie with William Young, baxter in Kirkcaldie, alledging the Presbytrie to have done more than they have warrand for.

The Presbytrie desyres the Moderator to acquaint the Bishop with thair proceedings in that mater truelie, and to desyre him not to give heid to mis-reports, etc., and in the meantyme ordeanes the Clerk to extract that process that the Bischopp may see that they have proceeded formalie. Kathren Fyell, compeiring anent the form of hir resaveing from the sentence of excommunicatioun pronounced aganest hir be the minister of Kennoquhie. She is ordained to stand at the kirk durr thair betwixt the 2 and 3 bell in whyte sheitts, and thairefter to go to the place of publick repentance, and sitt the tyme of the sermone, and thairafter to crave God and the congregatioun pardone for hir contemp for the dicipline of the kirk, and confess hir fault in slandering of Kathren Balfoir, whereupon she was challenged, and crave hir pardone and thairafter be resaved. William Melvin in the parochine of Kennoquhie, and James Dryburgh thair, compeiring anent ane bairne brought out be the said James dochter, whilk he brought to him, whilk he denyes. The said William referrs the mater to the said James oath, if he knows any other man with hir who deponed not. William is ordained to tak with the bairne.

DYSERT, *March* 20, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . Alexander Symeson, bailie of Dysert, and David Carsell compeired, craveing help for the building of thair harborie. The brethren promeises to intimate the samyne to thair people.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Tullus compleans upon ane James Fairlie who strak ane man in his kirkyaird upon Sonday last. The Presbytrie advyses him to declaire the mater to the Erle of Weyms, that he may tak order for the ryot, and thairafter he may persew the Kirks part. Mr Robert Cranstown shew to the brethren ane discharge grantit to him be Mr Walter Lawmonth for the kirk manss of Skunie, registrat in the Lords bookes.

DYSERT, *Aprill* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Bigger exhibit ane letter for my L. of St Androis, putteing them in mynd of the collectioun appoynted be the Synode,

for the relief of tuo captives, viz., Alexander Latrishe in Dysert, and David Kirkcaldie in Kingorne, whes bein thir monie years in the Spanishe Galleyes. Compeired Kathren Vallange compleaning that David Mortone will not satisfie what he was ordained. The Presbytrie ordaines the Minister to proceid aganest him to excommunicatioun, and thinks meitt that he be wardit till he find caution to obey. James Mudie, ane blind man of St Androis, having ane recommendatioun from my L. of St Androis, seiking support; the brethren anser when he comes about to thair severall kirks, they shall help him.

KIRKCALDIE, *Aprill* 10.

The Parson of Dysert excused his last dayes absence, be reason that he was buysied anent the affairs of the toune of Dysert in seikeing help for thair harborie. Compeired David Mortone: ordained to satisfie as he was ordained, and niver to be hard againe except he doe it. Anent the process of William Young and Margart Law, seine and read to the Presbytrie, the brethren approves the saymne and appoynts the samyne to be caryed to the Bischop that he may allow and approve the samyne, as wills the Moderator to put his hand to the saymne. Mr Thomas Melvill excused his last dayes absence be reason thair was ane meiting of the gentlemen of the paroshe at the kirk that day for the affairs of the kirk. Hard and allowed.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 24, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . David Chrystie, bailie of Dysert, compeiring, craved of the brethren that they would not delyver the moneyes collectit be them for the relief of Alexander Lathrish in Dysert, and David Kirkcaldie in Kingorne (who are captives in the Spanishe Galeyes) to John Kirkcaldie in Kingorne, except he find caution that it salbe employed to that uss for them both, conjunctlie. The brethren grantit to it. The Minister of Kirkcaldie declayred that the B. had subsryvit the process aganest Margart Law, and allowed the samyne.

The Presbytrie desyres them to proceid aganest hir accordeinglie.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . John Williamson compeiring, lamented the pitifull and distressed estaite of John Balcanquhill and his companie, the brethren promieses diligence. Mr Frederik Carmichel shewing that his congregation of Kennoquhie are unable and some of them unwilling to contribute for the releif of the foirsaid captives, demandit whether or not in such a caise any thing might be taken out of the box with consent of the sessioun to that or the like occasioun. The brethren ansers: he may. The said Mr Frederik compleans that David Lundie, Auchtermairnie, does not behave himself naither in sessioun nor in uther ways as he sould, he haveing causs sowmoned him befoir the Presbytrie to anser for the samyne: called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. The said Mr Frederik demandit of the brethren whidder or not dureing the said Davids so

caryage and misbehaviour in the sessioun and process aganest him, he may pass by his voit in sessioun. The brethren ansers: he may.

Mr John Chalmer craved of the brethren that tuo of thair number might be dyrect by tham to visit his manss, and see the samyne comprysed be workmen, that his disbursements and expense wared be him upon the said manss may be refowundit to him or his successors. The brethren appoynts Mr David Anderson and Mr Thomas Melvill for that effect. Also Mr David Anderson and Mr Frederik Carmichel, and Doctor Andro Lawmonth desyres the samyne and they appoynt Mr John Chalmer and Mr Harie Wilkie for Mr David Anderson, and Mr Thomas Powtie and Mr Frederik Carmichel for Doctor Andro Lawmonth, and Doctor Andro Lawmonth and Mr Robert Cranstowne for Mr Frederik Carmichel.

The Presbytrie appoynts the Parson of Dysert and Mr James Symeson to goe to Mr John Tullus, and get the Presbytrie books from him.

DYSERT, *May* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Kathren Fyell was relaxit from excommunicatioun the last Sabbath in Kennoquhie, and resaved.

David Lundie of Auchtermairine being sowmonit, called, compeired not; ordained to be sowmonit the nixt day, pro 3. Janet Fairlie, adultres, with James Law in Markinche, compeiring, resaved hir last injunctiouns.

Margt Law was prayed for the last Sabbath in Kirkcaldie, pro 1.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 15, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . The Minister of Kirkcaldie reportit that Mart Law was prayed for the last Sabbath, pro 2.

The Presbytrie desyres the Ministers of Kirkcaldie with some others of the brethren to ryd to the B. of St Androis, and inform him trulie anent Margart Law. Compeired David Lundie of Auchtermairnie being sowmonit. The Minister, Mr Frederik Carmichel compleanes upon him be claime layeing sundrie and divers misbehaviours to his charge. The said David Lundie desyres of the brethren that they wold visite the Kirk of Kennoquhie, that all things controverted betwixt him and the Minister may be hard and judged be the brethren. The said Mr Frederik is content with this provision that if the brethren cannot agree, then that he may goe forward in his process aganest him, whereto thai agree and appoynts this day fyftein dayes for the visitatioun, and Mr Robert Douglas to preach thair, whilk sal serve for his exerise. John Balcanquhill and his companie remembrit.

DYSERT, *May* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . The Minister of Kirkcaldie reportit that they had bein at my Lord Bishop of St Androis and Doctor Lawmonth with them, anent Margt. Law, and that Alexander Law hir father, and James Law hir brother wer thair also, and that Alexander Law had taine upon him to improve the process and that the B. had promeised to give him sowmons to sowmoned the Presbytrie

to that effect befoir the High Commissioun. Compeired Patrik Wemys, adulterer, desyreing the Presbytrie that they wold shorten the dayes of his repentance. They desyres him to continue yet awhile and then come agane. The brethren shew thai wer useing diligence anent the relief of John Balcanquhills companie.

KENNOQUHIE, *May* 29.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kennoquhie holden within the kirk thairof, upon the 29 day of May 1634 years, be Mr John Chalmers thair chosen Moderator, the Parson of Dysert, Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Mrs Robert Cranstown, John Tullus, James Symeson, Robert Douglas, David Anderson, Harie Wilkie, Thomas Melvill, Thomas Powtie, and Frederik Carmichell, minister of the said kirk.

The edict returned indorsat. All things belongeing to ane ordinar visitatioun being passed by, in respect this was appoyntit for the trying of the controversie betwixt the minister Mr Frederik Carmichell, and David Lundie of Auchtermairnie. The parties compeires viz., the said Mr Frederik giving in his claime, compleaneing that the said David Lundie had wronged him, speaking verie disdainefullie and slanderouslie of him, quhilk claime being read, conteined many contumelious and injurious slanderous speeches, bot in speciall thir :—That he could learn nothing of him bot pryd, malice, and avarice, etc. The brethren demandit amongst themselfs what course wer best to be taken in tryeing of the things alledgit; it was concludit that Master Frederik his claime should be read, and the said David posed upon everie particular therein conteined, and he to answer thairto, whilk being read, and the said David posed, as said is, confessed, that he said he saw nothing to learne in his minister bot pryd, avarice, and invye. The said Mr Frederik also nominat witness for proveing of the samyn viz., Martin Balfour, aganest whom the said David objectit that he could not be witness aganest him in respect that he and he wer under law burrowes and so he was passed, further he nominats James Pitcairne, John Ramsay, James Archbald, James Roger, Henrie Landales, Robert Durie, Walter Wilkie who all being admitted and sworne, deponed as followes :—

James Pitcairne deponed that he hard David Lundie say that he could learne nothing of his minister bot pryd, avarice, and envye. John Ramsay, James Archbald, James Roger, Walter Wilkie, Thomas Archbald all deponed affirmative *ad idem*. James Archbald also declared that none of the meane sort of the elders durst speak in sessioun for him, and that he boasted the gudman of Kilmuks, also Walter Wilkie declared that he boasted him in the kirkyaird. The Presbytrie finding Mr Frederiks claime both confessit and proven, they demaund of the said David if he will byde by the said speeches who anserit he would prove him proud and avaritious. The brethren persaveing his reasons to be weak and not able to prove his allegeances discharges him to come onie more to the sessioun, till he agree with the minister, and aither to prove his allegeances aganest the minister, or ells to secumbe in the mater and gives him ane moneths space to prove the samyne.

Mr Frederik askit instrument in the clerks hands that he had proven his claims sufficientlie.

The Minister of Kirkcaldie reportit that Margart Law had endit hir repentance the last Sabbath in sackcloth, as she was ordained for hir adulterous behaviour with William Young, baxter. David Wilson in Kinninmouth compleaneing upon the Minister of Markinche who deteyns his mariage pand, whilk he laid doun for the space of ane year and ane half without any just caus. The brethren ordaines him to give it back agane.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Cristian Page, spouse to Robert Smart, braboner, in the Links of Kirkcaldie, and David Williamson, younger, in Kirkcaldie, the said Cristian compleaning upon the said David that she comeing by his malt barne, he called upon hir to come to him, and when she refused he drew hir in be force, and promised hir ane peck of beare, and said he should give her ane furlott of beare and half a dollar, and forced hir and lay with hir in the barne, as also that the said Davids brother came to hir thairafter and bad hir go over the water till the mater dyed doun, and he should put hir with ane woman over the water where she should be weill and get 20 lbs. of drink silver. The said David in the meantyme denyeing hir challenge menassed to slay hir with ane knyff The brethren charges him in Gods name and the Kings, that he doe hir or hir husband no injurie, in respect thair was no bailie to bind him with lawburrows, and continues the mater till further tryell.

DYSERT, *Junii* 12, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Stocks in Kingorne, compleaning that the minister in Kingorne had done wrong in calleing upon him to mak repentance for slandering Robert Mackgullan, alledgeing thair is no decreit aganest him. The brethren ordeanes Mr Alexander Scrimgeor to desist from troubleing him further till that be tryed. Mr Thomas Bigger compleans upon the said James Stocks for wrongeing of him in the kirk of Kingorne, and desyres that he may have process aganest him, whilk was grantit. Anent David Williamsone and Cristian Page, the brethren thinks meit that the Moderator declair that mater to the Bishop, and ordaines them to be sowmonit agane to the nixt day, and confronted togither.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Smith being recommended be the B. of Dunkeld to be tryed be the brethren anent his qualificatioun for the kirk of Lesslie, the brethren, in respect that Mr Thomas Powtie, minister thair, payes a part of his steipend continews to try him till they know his mynd thairanent. The whilk day compeired Cristian Page and David Williamsone, younger: confrontit togither the said Cristian affirmed in his face that he forced hir and lay with hir in

his barne. The manner thus :—she was comeing by his malt barne, and he called upon hir saying, come hither Cirstie, she refuseing, he bad hir come and he should give her ane lapfull of beare, and she comeing neir to the durr (he having deiplie sworne not to tuich her) he drew hir into the barne and steikit the durr, and struglit with hir to lye with hir, and then he said he hard tuo men comeing by and forbad her to cry and he should give hir ane furlott of beare and half a dollar, and leaving hir so he went to the durr and looked out, and in the meantime she pressed to goe out at the other durr, bot he cam back agane befoir she could gett out, and then he kest hir doune among the malt, and laid hir head to the downwith, and kest hir cloathes about hir head, and reshed hir leggs sundrie with his knees, and shamefullie lay with hir in such a tyme as it was not lawfull to hir owne husband to have laine with hir. As also she affirmed that his brother William come to hir and bad hir goe to Edr a quhil, and they wald give hir gud deid, and said if it were gottin wit of, it would coast his brother his lyff. Thir things wer done upon the Friday, and she lay sick till the Moonday thairafter, and thought niver to have told it bot hir husband threateneing to tell him what ailed hir, and said she was weill eneugh upon Friday when she geid out from him, and then she told him this storie, etc. The said David confessit that he sawe hir comeing by his barne and he being comeing over his yaird dyk lapp betwein hir shoulders and she fell over upon the hadder stack, and then she bad the plague of God be upon him, and he left hir presentlie and did hir no mor harm. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that the mater be compleaned upon to the secreet Counsell. and that they may inform the B. thairof, that he may declair the samyne to the Counsell. Compeired William Anderson, adulterer with Margaret Kirkland sent hither by the Minister of Auchterdirran, who resaved his first injunctiouns. Doctor Lawmonth declaired that thair is ane old man in his paroche of 80 years, who being lyeing sick hes confessit that he hes lived with a woman who is his supposed wyff thir aughteen years bygon unmaryed, but was contracted in Anstruther Wester, and becaus he had not ane pawne to lay downe was never maried. The brethren desyres him to send to Anstruther and try the truth of that.

DYSERT, *Junii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Ane letter from the B. of Orkenay shewing the pitifull distressed estaite of these of Caitnes and Orknay, in respect of the extream famine, being read and considerit, the Presbytrie ar content to intimate the samyne to thair particular congregatiouns and sessiouns that they may be helped. Mr Thomas Biggers compleanit aganest James Stocks to be considerit the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 3, 1634

The whilk day . . . . . The copie of the Lords patent grantit for the relief of these of Orkenay and Kaitnes being read, the Presbytrie promeises diligence thereanent.

Some pitful letters from some of John Balcanquhills companie being read, the brethren promeises thair best diligence. Mr Thomas Bigger compleaneing upon

James Stocks in Kingorne, for calling him ane envyous man in the kirk of Kingorne befoir the congregation being read, the Presbytrie gives the claime to the parties to be anserit be him the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Julii* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Mr David Leitche, Minister of Dundrennan in Galloway, regratting his greatt loss be the burning of his houss and all his guids. The brethren promeises so soon as they can gett thair present contributiouns in hand for the relief of John Balcanquhills companie, for the relief of Alexander Lathrisk and David Kirkcaldie, and these of Orkenay and Kaitnes, exped that then they wilbe most willing to contribute for his relieff. The whilk day appeared David Bennet of Kirkcaldie, humblie craveing that he may be admittit to the communion. The Presbytrie and Ministers of Kirkcaldie considering the mater thinks that he cannot be admittit thairto till aither he be reconcilled with his contraparties or els till the suspensioun depending betwixt them be discussit.

Compeired James Abercrombie of Strarudie in the Parochin of Auchterdirran regraeteing that he is hardlie used be his minister, Mr John Chalmer, in that he is proceeding aganest him be ane process tending to excommunicatioun. Mr John Chalmer ansers that the said James Abercrombie hes niver came to the kirk since the visitatioun of the kirk quhilk was in August 1630, alledgeing the brethren had done him wrong, and albeit he had been desyred be himself, his elders and others, yet he wold niver come to this hour, whereupon he entered in process aganest him, also sensyne the said James hes committed fornicatioun, for the whilk he will mak no satisfactioun, and so both process going fordward aganest him. The said James being demandit his reasons why he remained so obistinat, ansers : (1) Except the ministers of the Presbytrie give him satisfactioun in putting his seate in the place of the kirk where it stood befoir the visitatioun, he will niver come to that kirk. 2. For his fornicatioun he is content to satisfie in any other kirk of the Presbytrie, bot not in his owne till he be repossessed. Process grantit to Robert Mackgullan aganest James Stocks.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . Mr John Smith gave in his *Theses* and is to handel the Cowmonhead, *De Electione*, the nixt day in Latin privatlie. Compeired James Law, elder, witness anent ane claime given in be William Bervie, aganest Alexander Law alias Clampre, for calling him ane false cowmon theif and ane perjured dogg. The said James Law admitted and sworne deponed he hard the said Alexander utter the said speeches aganest the said William. Compeired Thomas Hugowne and William Craige, witnesses in the said mater, admitted and sworne, deponed they hard the said Alexender Law utter the said speeches aganest the said William Bervie. The Presbytrie finding the said Alexander Law to have most filthlie slanderit the said William Bervie, they ordaine the said Alexander Law to come to the mercatt croce where he uttered the said speeches and thair acknowledge his fault, and thairafter crave God and the said William pardone for his offence,

30 lbs collectit at the kirk of Auchertule for the support of Orkenay and Kaithnes deliverit be the minister, Mr David Martin, to the Moderator. The brethren considering that the grownd of all this controversie betwixt Alexander Law and William Bervie proceids upon ane discontentment of the said Alexander for not payment to him of some compts and reckoneing betwixt him and the said William be him, and is willing and desyreous that that mater may be taine away be the neirest of the said William Bervies friends, and to that effect nominats James and Robert Whytes, to whom he freelie and willinglie submitts himself anent all maters controverted betwixt him and the said William, whereunto the said William assents and promeises to submitt to the saids persons for himself. Alexander Law obeyit the decreit of the Presbytrie as he was ordained towards William Bervie.

Julii 24, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Smyth handled the Cowmonhead *De Electione* in Latin privatelie, and susteined disputatiouns thairupon with approbatioun, and is to handle nixt the head *De Justificatione* publicklie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 31.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the greate raine, yit some brethren convening viz., the Parson of Dysert, Mrs James Symeson, David Anderson, Thomas Melvill, and Mr John Smyth who susteined farder disputatiouns, upon his former *Theses* as also gave *Theses, De Novo* upon his head *De Justificatione* whilk he is to handel the nixt day in Dysert.

DYSERT, *Agust* 7.

The whilk day Mr John Smyth handled the Cowmonhead *De Justificatione*, and susteined disputatiouns thairupon, and is to teach popular doctrin the nixt day, and for text resaved Rom. 3, 23. Robert Smart, desyreing of the Presbytrie that he myt have the extract of these things whilk where compleaned upon to the Presbytrie be his wyff the Presbytrie grants it to him, and appoynts the clerk to extract the samyne.

KIRKCALDIE, *Agust* 14.

The whilk day Mr John Smyth handled the text assignit to him publicklie in the pulpett of Kirkcaldie. The brethren ar fullie satisfied with his tryells and gives him thair testimonial. The Presbytrie appoynts Doctor Lawmonth, Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe to Auchterdirran and visit the kirk seats thair.

DYSERT, *Agust* 21, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . My Lord of St Androis having written to the brethren that they have these moneyes in redines that wer collectit for the relief of Alexander Lathrisk and David Kirkcaldie who ar deteyned in the Turks galeyes. The stent

of the whole Presbytrie being tuo hundreths punds Scotts thai presentlie stent themselfs thus—Kirkcaldie, sall pay 50 merks; Dysert, 40 merks; Kingorne, 20 lbs; Burntiland, 20 lbs. The stenting of the landward kirks referred absolutelie to the Moderator. Mr Robert Douglas reportit that he and Mr Thomas Melvill went to Auchterdirran (as they wer appoyntit) for trying the controversies anent the placeing of thair seats who declaired that the parochiners had all submitted themselfs, and the controversies anent the placeing or removeing of thair seatts to the Presbytrie.

Compeired David Law in the Coletowne of Balgonie being sowmonit, called, compeired not: is to sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. Mr David Scrimgeor, younger, offers himself to the tryell of the Presbytrie being desyreous to be admittit upon thair exercise. The Presbytrie appoynts him for text, John 3, 16, to handel for his private tryell.

KIRKCALDIE, *Agust* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired David Law in the Coltowne of Balgonie for alledgit interteyneing persons in his hous scandalouslie as James Lundie who hes gottin tuo bairnes upon his dochter. He ansers it is aganest his will that he comes to his hous, bot he cannot discharge him seeing he is ane gentleman, and is frie in all houses that uses hostelarie for his money, bot if the Presbytrie will discharge him he wilbe verie weill content, as also any other whom they can alledge to be scandalous. The brethren appoynts some of thair number to speak to James Lundie. The whilk day also compeired John Chalmer for remaineing with Margaret Creightone his supposed wyff thir, aughtein years bygone unmaryed. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to mak his repentance in sackcloth till the time of the Assemblie, and thair to inquyre of them quhat salbe forder done with him: in the meantime ordaines him to separat from the woman which he promeises to obey. Anent the captives of Kirkcaldie the brethren shew that they had used diligence.

DYSERT, *September* 4.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown exercised without addition. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Frederik Carmichell is appoynted to exercise the nixt day, Mr John Tullus to add, text John 8, 1.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator sent in the stent of the Landward Kirks for the relief of Alexander Lathrisk and David Kirkcaldie, captives in the Galeys, as folllows:—

> Markinche, 20 merks; Skunie, 20 merks; Weyms, 20 merks; Auchtertule, 10 merks; Ballingrie, 10 merks; Kennoquhie, 20 merks; Kinglesie, 10 lbs; Leslie, 10 lbs; Auchterdirran, 10 merks; Portmook, 10 merks.

The exercise continewed by Mr Frederik Carmichel and Mr John Tullus,

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the moneys collectit for the reliefe of Alexander Lathrisk and David Kirkcaldie, captives in the Spanish Galeyes, the Presbytrie ordeanes the brethren to bring it, *primo quo tempore*, and deliver it to the Moderator. Anent the moneyes for the relief of John Balcanquhills companie, they ordaine it to be deliverit to Mr John Williamson, collector, appoyntit for that end be the Counsell. Anent Kathren Vallange, hir complaint of not putting of the decreit of the sessioun of Kingorne to execution given out be them be warrand of the Presbytrie aganest James Stocks for slandering hir husband Robert Mackgullan, the Presbytrie remaines in thair former judgement thairanent, and ordeanes the Sessioun of Kingorne to put the samyne to execution.

DYSERT, *September* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Georg Arnott in Kapilldrae, compleaning upon Mr John Chalmer for not admitting him into the communion. The brethren desyres him to give in his complaint the nixt day in wreat, and they shall advyse upon it. The Presbytrie ordaines Mr Alexander Scrimgeor to put the decreit aganest James Stocks, obtained be Robert Mackgullan aganest him to executioun.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . The process led be Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, aganest James Abercrombie being hard and considered be the brethren, they approve the samyne as orderlie proceedit, and ordaines the samyne to be presented to the Bishop. Georg Arnott of Kapilldrae is to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *October* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the anser to the letters sent be William Dick, Sreff. of Orkenay, and Mathew Weyms for ane contributioun to be gathred for the relief of the distressed estait of these of Orkenay and Zetland, the brethren ansers that they have so many contributiouns lyeing upon them, and in special thois of the relief of the captives heir in Fyff, that thair canbe nothing obteined be them from thair parochiners. Georg Arnott is to be sowmonit pro 2. Elspett Murisone being sowmonit, not compeiring, is to be sowmonit pro 2.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill deliverit 22 dollars and ane half to the collectors for the captives of Kirkcaldie for the Parochine of Kinglessie. Item, he delivered for the captives of Kingorne and Dysert 10 lbs. Mr David Anderson delyverit 6 lbs. 11 sh. for the captives of Kirkcaldie for the Parochine of Ballingrie. Doctor Andro Lawmonth sent 20 merks for the relief of the captives of Dysert and Kingorne from Markinche,

DYSERT, *October* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . James Stocks, having sent ane appelatioun to the Presbytrie, they reject it and sent it back again. Mr David Scrimgeor handled the text assignit to him, viz., Rom. 12, 1, with approbatioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr David Martin deliverit 10 merks to Mr Alexander Scrimgeor for the relief of the captives of Dysert and Kingorne, also he delyverit ten punds to John Williamson for the relief of the captives of Kirkcaldie for his Parochine of Auchtertule.

DYSERT, *November* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . John Chalmer compeiring, resaved his last injunctions for adulterie. The Presbytrie ordaines the process aganest James Stocks in Kingorne to goe fordward, in respect his appelatioun was out of time.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . John Williamson, bailie of Kirkcaldie, compeiring for these moneyes that ar collectit for the relief of the captives of Kirkcaldie deteyned in Argier, he offers to bind himself that if the moneyes that he sal resave from the Presbytrie be not employit that way, he sal render them back agane. Resaved be Mr James Miller from Mr Robert Cranstown 20 merks for his Parochine of Skunie for the relief of David Kirkcaldie and Alexander Lathrisk to be deliverit back again in caice it be not employit for thair relief.

DYSERT, *November* 20, 1634.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Chalmer for lyeing thir tuelf years bygone with ane woman with whom he was contractit (as she alledges) unmaryed. Ordained to sit thrie Sabbath dayes upon the place of publick repentance, the last of them in sackcloath, and not to be maried till she report ane testimonial of the death of hir husband.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstown deliverit 200 merks collectit for the relief of the captives of Kirkcaldie, in the Parochine of Skunnie, resaved be Mr James Miller to be deliverit to Mr John Williamsone.

Mr John Smyth reportit ane testimonial from the Bischope of Dunkeld sheweing his admission to the kirk of Leslie as fellowhelper to Mr Thomas Powtie, desyreing the Presbytrie to send some of thair number to resave him thair. The Presbytrie appoynts this day fyftein dayes, the elevint of this instant, for that effect, and the whole brethren to meite thair, and Mr James Symeson to preache. Anent John Bosuell in Kingorne, and Andro Bosuell thair, there satisfactioun for thair fornicatiouns, the brethren desyres that thai be sowmonit to compeir befoir them. Anent Helen Leitch, *quinquies lapsa*, in fornicatioun, the brethren appoynts hir to sit 3

Sabbaths upon the stool of repentance in sackcloath (she haveing sittin a number of dayes alreadie), and then to get ane testimonial and be dismissed.

DYSERT, *December* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Smart, regrateing that the Erle of Dalhousie threatens him anent the persute of David Williamson for alledgit abuseing his wyff. The brethren desyres Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas to goe to the Erle, and desire him to assist the man seing he is his owne tenant.

December 11.

The whilk day the brethren, viz., Mr James Symeson, Mr Robert Cranstown, Mr Frederik Carmichel, and Mr Thomas Powtie meitting at Leslie for the resaveing of Mr John Smyth, fellowhelper to Mr Thomas Powtie, resaved the said Mr John. The Erle of Rothess having sent ane letter to them shewing his consent and desyreing the brethren to admit him, seing he could not be present himself. Mr James Symeson taught the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Absents—all except the Ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Kinglessie, and Markinche.

December 25 and *Januari* 4.

No exercise, in respect of the absence of Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, who should have exercised.

Januari 8, 1635.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie gives warrand to Henrie Kairnes to warne Andro Bosuell to the Sessioun of Kingorne, as also to the kirk officiar of Kingorne to sowmon him heir in thir bownds.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Beverage desyreing to come upon the publick exercise offers himself to tryell. The brethren assigns him for text, Rom. 4, 1, to handel the nixt day privatelie.

John Mutray and Bessie Danskyne in the congregatioun of Markinche, compeireing, the said Bessie affirms the said John to be father to hir bairne; he denyes the samyne affirming never to have lyen with hir befoir tulf dayes befoir Pasch, she affirmeing again that he lay with hir befoir Candlemes. The Presbytrie desyres the minister to try the mater better.

DYSERT, *Februar* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Beverag was hard with approbatioun, bot in respect of the absence of the brethren from the greatt storme that hes bein thir fyve weiks bygone is to be hard again.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februar* 26, 1635.

The whilk day . . . . . Absents—all except the Ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Kinglessie, and Leslie for foull weather.

DYSERT, *March* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Presents onlie the Moderator, Ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Kingorne, Skunnie, Weyms.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved from Mr Robert Cranstowne his diligence anent the names of the heretors and lands within the Parochine of Skunnie.

Ordaines the Clerk to writt sowmons to charge James Abercrombie of Straruddie to anser for his disobedience to the Sessioun of Auchterdirran.

Mr Thomas Bigger reportit that Kathren Chalmer in Kingorne, affirmeth John Bosuell thair to be hir bairnes father the said John denyeing the samyn yet granting copulatioun with hir, demandeth if they may accept of his repentaunce one day onlie. The Presbytrie refuses. Question: quhat satisfactioun they sal mak who disguises themselfs. Anser: to mak thair publick repentaunce. The visitatioun of the kirks to be thought upon.

DYSERT, *March* 16, 1635.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmers diligence and Master David Andersons anent the heritors and lands of Auchterdirran and Ballingrie deliverit to the Moderator. Compeired James Abercrombie of Straruddie accused 1 for not frequenting his Paroch kirk, 2 for not obeying the sessioun thair, 3 for not satisfieing the kirk for fornicatioun. Confessit all thrie, and affirmed that he had voued never to come to that kirk, and consequently not to give obedience to the sessioun nor to satisfie for his fornicatioun till he be repared of the wrang done to him be the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie charges him to haunt his Paroch kirk in time comeing, to obey the sessioun, and to satisfie for his fornicatioun under the paine of disobedience and to begin the nixt Sabbath day.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie not obeying the ordinance of the Presbytrie ordained to be sowmonit be the authoritie of the Presbytrie under the paine of disobedience.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 16, 1635.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown exercised without additioun. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 23.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised without additioun. . . .

DYSERT, *April* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie not obeyeing the ordinance of the Presbytrie, is ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, and that Mr John Chalmer, younger, may sowmon him.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren thinks that onlie ane actuall minister may warn any delinquent publicklie. The whilk day compeired William Gibbie in Kingorne, anent ane question referred from the Sessioun of Burntiland to the Presbytrie, that is to say: one Violat Swan in Burntiland being with bairne, challenged befoir the Sessioun of Burntiland, affirmed she was with bairne to the afoirnamed William Gibbie (who had befoir committed fornicatioun in Burntiland), she affirmed the fornicatioun was committed in Burntiland; and the said William (being relapse) affirmed the bairne to be gotten in the Parochine of Kingorne in the feilds onlie to elide the diciplin of Burntiland. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to satisfie in Burntiland.

DYSERT, *Maii* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie being sowmonit, called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt to heir himself convict of contumacie. Compeired William Anderson, adulterer: resaved his last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Sowmonds returned indorsat aganest James Abercrombie sheweing that he was thrice publicklie warnit to obey the ordinance of the Presbytrie for his disobedience to the Sessioun of Auchterdirran; not frequenting his paroch church, and not satisfing for his fornicatioun. He compeireing is convict of contumacie, and is to be proceeded aganest to excommunicatioun.

DYSERT, *Junii* 11.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised, Mr John Chalmer added. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 18.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer exercised without addition. . . . .

DYSERT, *Junii* 25.

The whilk day Mr John Balvaird exercised without addition . . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . William Cambell being referred from the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie anent ane complaint give in be Jean Arnot his wyff aganest him for not adherence and neglect of all husbandlie dueties to hir, compeireing alledgit that he could not doe duetie to hir, in respect she had brought foorth ane bairn to ane

uther man in adulterie. The Presbytrie remitts hir to the ordinar Judge, in respect of his alledgeaunce. Process aganest Ja. Abercrombie to be subscryvit the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Julii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie allowed and subscryvit the process aganest James Abercrombie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 16.

The whilk day Alexander Scrimgeor exercised, the Moderator added. . . .

DYSERT, *Julii* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Ramsay in Falkland and Kathren Doctor in the congregatioun of Markinche; the said Kathren haveing brought foorth ane bairn affirms the said John to be hir bairns father, and that he lay with hir once onlie, and that upon the last Communion Sunday in Markinche, benorth the towne. The said John denyes that ever he lay with hir. The Presbytrie remitts them to thair ministers to be dealt with be them further.

James Forrest in Monthryfe with his sone and dochter being sowmonit for alledgit clipping of sheip upon the Sabbath day, called, compeired not: remitted to thair minister and Sessioun to be taine order with.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 30, 1635.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr David Leitche, Minister of Dundrennan in Galloway, delateing to the brethren his distress anent the burneing of his hous, the brethren promeises to doe thair diligence anent him, betwixt this and Michelmes. James Grieve and his repentance remittit to the Minister of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *August* 6.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, younger, exercised for his father. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren promeises diligence anent Mr David Leitche. Robert Crystie, ane merchand in Edr, being fallen from his estait gave in ane supplicatioun to the brethren for support. The brethren promeises to propone the samyne to thair several sessiouns.

DYSERT, *August* 20, 1635.

The whilk day . . . . . Margart Kirkland, adultress with William Anderson in Auchterdirran resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren promeises diligence anent Mr David Leitche.

DYSERT, *September* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren promeises thair diligence anent Mr David Leitche.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . The whilk day also Robert Crystie, merchand, burges of Edr, produced ane testimionial from the Clerk of the Tolbuith of Edr, shewing that the Laird of Innerweik is presentlie in ward thair, and especiallie arrestit at his instance for ane gryte sum of money. The brethren promeises diligence anent him. Also anent Mr David Leitche, the Lord Conveiner of the Justice of Peace, sent ane letter to the brethren desyreing them to chuse out some of thair pariochners, tuo out of every parochine in landward to be constables for keipeing the Kings peace: the brethren promeises diligence.

DYSERT, *September* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Patrik Weyms desyreing that he may be reconcilled to the kirk againe. The brethren appoynts him to come the nixt day and resave his last injunctiouns. Anent Robert Crystie the brethren promieses diligence. Compeired Thomas Lumsdell of Pittillock compleaneing that thair was ane heavie slander raised upon him whereof the Moderator was the author as he alledged. The brethren thinks expedient that the clerk writt to the Moderator to be present the nixt day.

DYSERT, *September* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Thomas Lumsdell of Pittillock compleaneing of the great slander raised upon him. The Moderator alledges Kathren Law in Burntiland to have bein the first author of it. Thomas Lumsdell of Pittillock desyres the said Kathren to be brought befoir the Presbytrie the nixt day to be tryed anent the grownd of hir slander. The brethren appoynts hir to be brought the nixt day, and the Moderator promeises to bring hir with him.

Anent the chuseing of constables the Moderator nominat for the landward Parochin of Burntiland, Henrie Johnstowne portioner of Newbigging, and David Robertsone of Overgrange. Master John Chalmer nominat for the Parochine of Auchterdirran, James Bedsone of Glenistone, and James Grig in Babedie. Mr Harie Wilkie for the Parochin of Portmook nominat Andro Baith in Kirkness, and Adam Wilsone in Kinaskwode. Adam Wilsone in Kinaskwode, and James Grig in Babedie being present, resaved and took upon them the office of constabularie, and gave thair oaths to be faithfull in the said office: resaved be Sir David Auchmutie of that Ilk Knyt, who was present for that effect. Compeired Patrik Wemys, adulterer: resaved his last injunctiouns.

Anent Mr David Leitche and Robert Crystie the brethren promeises diligence.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 1.

Mr Robert Cranstowne exercised without addition. . . . Resaved be Mr James Symeson the sowme of four punds from Mr David Martin, minister at Auchtertull, in name of Mr David Leitche. The rest promeises diligence. Compeired Thomas Lumsdell of Pittillock: his mater is continewed till the nixt day of meiting in Dysert in respect of the absence of the Moderator this day. Compeired James Bedsone in Ballingrie, and James Andersone in Navetie, who declaired thair reddines to accept the office of constables: remittit till some Justice of Peace comes. Diligence promeised anent Robert Crystie.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *October* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Thomas Lumsden of Pittillock compeiring compleaned upon the wrong he had gotten be the Moderator (as he alledgit). The brethren appoynts the clerk to write to the Moderator to be present the nixt day, and to bring his author with him according to his promeiss. Elspett Lumsden called, compeired not: ordained to sowmonit to the nixt day, pro. 2. Mr John Chalmer declaired that my Lord Archbishope of St Androis, had allowed the process aganest James Abercrombie and subscryvit the samyne, but desyred that the brethren wold deall with him yet befoir he wer excommunicat. A question being proponed to the Synod whidder John Ramsay his oath should be taine for purgeing himself of fornicatioun with Kathren Doctor or the said Kathrens oath; they answer—The mans oath in respect he is more famous.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 22.

The whilk day Mr William Nairn exercised without addition. . . .

DYSERT, *October* 29, 1635.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michelsone exercised without addition. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Abercrombie who being earnestlie dealt with to give obedience to the Kirk, and being informed be the brethren that the process aganest him was allowed and subscryvit be the Archbishope, nevertheles remaines still in his obstinacie and wold grant to give no obedience.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr David Leitche the brethren promeises diligence aganest Monday nixt.

DYSERT, *November* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Gillespie is nominat and chosen to be Burser of Theologie for this Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 26.

The whilk day Mr John Litiljohn exercised without addition . . . . .

DYSERT, *December* 3, 1635.

The whilk day Mr John Balvaird exercised without addition. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 10.

The whilk day Mr David Scrimgeor exercised, Mr John Chalmer added. . . . .

DYSERT, *December* 17.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson exercised without addition. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . The Erle of Rothess be his letters desyred the brethrens approbatioun to his dochters mariage with my Lord of Montgomerie upon anes proclamatioun for sundrie reasons conteined in his said letter. The Presbytrie approves the samyne and grants it.

DYSERT, *December* 31.

The whilk day Doctor John Michelson exercised without addition. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 7, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Blyth is desyred to be present the nixt day to sie his warrand for preaching, etc. James Lundie in Skedowie to be sowmonit for disobedience to kirk diciplin of Markinche.

DYSERT, *Januari* 28.

The whilk day. . . . . Compeired William Cambell and Elspett Lumsden confessit adulterie, bot in respect of there senselessnes of thair sinne, and the rarritie of the meitting they ar sowmonit, *apud acta*, to be present the nixt day in Kirkcaldie.

Isobel Black relict of Umquhill James Johnstone, craveing that she may have process aganest Alexander Johnstone of excommunicatioun, for the cruell murthering of hir husband: it was grantit to hir. A letter direct from the Chaunceller for gathering a collectioun for the relief of Robert Spens in Kingorne, who is taine be the Turks and deteyned in Argier, to be considerit be the brethren.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Elspett Lumsden, adultress with William Cambell: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Robert Spens, captive in Argiers remembrit.

DYSERT, *Februari* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Cambell confessit adultrie with Elspett Lumsden: resaved his first injunctiouns. Robert Spens remembrit, the brethren promeises help.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator reported that he had sowmoned Henri Johnstone publicklie out of the pulpett to compeir befoir the Presbytrie for the slaughter of James Johnstone, the last Sabbath, pro 1. Mr David Scrimgeor taks upon him to handel the Cowmonhead, *De Libero Arbitrio.* James Lundie of Skedowie to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Robert Spens remembrit.

DYSERT, *Februari* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Blyth presented his testimonial to the brethren from the Presbytrie of Erlestowne in the Mers.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 3, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator declairit that he had warrint Alexander Johnstone publicklie out of the pulpett to compeir befoir the Presbytrie to satisfie for the cruell slaughter of James Johnstone for the 2 tyme: ordeanes him to sowmon him againe for the third tyme.

DYSERT, *March* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Some articles of the Justices of Peace seene be the Presbytrie, appoyntit to be intimat. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Blyth not to teach in Balgonie upon the Sabbath in tyme of publick sermone, bot aither in the morneing or efter the afternoons sermone, and appoynts the Parson of Dysert, Mr Frederik Carmichel, and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe to Balgonie to Lady Generall Leslie to shew the samyne to hir. Mr Frederik Carmichel excused his long absence from the Presbytrie be reason of sickness and the goutt, whilk was accepted. Also he desyred of the brethren that the exercise may be delayed to be layed upon him for the space of five weeks onlie, in respect his hous is lyk to fall, whilk he is to caus tak downe and reedifie it of new agan. The Presbytrie grants the samyne to him. A certaine bairne whilk was gotten and borne in the Weyms, whose mother died in Dysert, is appoyntit to be sent back to the Weyms.

March 17.

The whilk day . . . . . The Parson of Dysert reportit that hee, Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Frederik Carmichel, went to my Lady General Leslie and delyverit the Presbytries commissioun, and that she sought onlie continuatioun till hir husband came home.

DYSERT, *March* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer, younger, craved ane testimonial whilk was grantit to him. Mr Andro Michelson declaired in name of his father that Alexander Johnstone in Newbigging, of Burntiland, was thryse sowmonit publicklie out of the pulpett to compeir befoir the Presbytrie to mak his repentance for the cruell slaughter of James Johnstone his neighbour, who not compeireing, the brethren ordeanes him to be proceeded aganest.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Alexander Johnstone haveing cruellie murthered his neighbour James Johnstone, and being thryse publicklie sowmonit to compeir befoir the Presbytrie to mak his repentance for the samyne, not compeiring nayther offereing satisfactioun be himself or uther in his name, the brethren thinks him meit to be excommunicat. Anent the bairne that was sent out of Dysart to the Weyms, the brethren still declaires the samyne to perteyne to the Parochine of the Weyms. Anent the bairne brought foorth be Marion Barker in hir journie to Leyth, and burying of it hirself in a yaird in Leyth, the brethren desyres the Minister of Wemys to try that mater more narowlie.

DYSERT, *Aprill* 7, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Mearnes is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day in respect of Mr John Tullus his weaknes and inabillitie to travell. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, 14.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie desyres Mr John Tullus to enquyr farther anent Marion Barkers bairne.

The Presbytrie allows the process aganest Henri Johnstone for the slaughter of James Johnstone in Newbigging, of Burntiland. Mr John Chalmer desyred of the Presbytrie that they wold direct one of thair number to deall yit with James Abercrombie (according to my Lord of St Androis will), befoir the sentence of excommunicatioun be pronounced aganest him. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Smith to goe to him and deale with him.

DYSERT, *Aprill* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . A supplicatioun being given in be Walter Ross of Prestonpans togither with ane act of Secret Counsell anent ane support to be gathered for the relief of John Browne and his companie, of Leyth, taken be the Turks and carried to Salie. The brethren remitts him to the Assemblie. Mr John Smith reportit that Mr Thomas Melvill and he went to James Abercrombie and verie earnestlie dealt with him to give obedience to the kirk who wold nowayes grant to give obedience bot remaines as stubborne now as befoir. The Presbytrie desyre Mr John Chalmer to signifie the samyne to my Lord Archbishope of St Androis at the Assemblie. Anent Robert Spens in Kingorne deteyned be the

Turks in Argier, the brethren promeises diligence. James Lundie ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Memorandum to get ane commissioun for the visitatioun of our kirks.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Doctor Andro Lawmonth delyverit ane commissioun direct by my Lord Bishope of St Androis, to Doctor John Michelson and so mony of the Presbytrie as he pleases to assume with him for visitatioun of the kirks of the Presbytrie. Also ane letter direct from the Bishoppe to deale once agane with James Abercrombie, and if thairafter he remains obstinat to proceed aganest him to excommunicatioun. Lilias Baxter, relict of Umql., John Ald, reider at Dysert, gave in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie for some support. They remitt hir to the particular kirks. Compeired William Hutchen, braboner in Kingorne, challengit for cureing one in Kingorne of the fallen sicknes be ane charme: confessit the samyne, bot said he knew not yit it was evill. Sowmonit, *apud acta*, to be present this day fyftein days in Kirkcaldie befoir the Presbytrie.

DYSERT, *Maii* 12, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Abercrombie demandit and dealt with to obey the kirk diciplin who wold not grant bot remained obstinat. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to satisfie the kirk for his fornicatioun by sitting three several Sabbaths upon the stoole of publick repentance as also to confess his fault of disobedience and contemp of the Kirk and crave God and the congregation pardone, and to promeiss faithfullie to keip good order in tyme comeing, and to begin the nixt Sabbath, utherwayes to be proceeded aganest with the sentence of excommunicatioun. Compeired Efie Anderson, adultress with Patrik Weyms and resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired also Bessie Oliphant in Kingorne adultress with John Shortous: resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator delyverit ane act of Counsell with a letter from my Lord Archbishope of St Androis for a collection for the Harborie of Port Patrik. Robert Spens remembrit.

Mr David Scrimgeor gave in his *theses*, and is to handel the Cowmonehead *De Libero Arbitrio*, the nixt day in Dysert. The kirk of Bailgrie is to be visited this day fyftein days: Mr Thomas Melvill is to preach thair.

Robert Lambert called, compeired not: is to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2.

DYSERT, *Maii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Hutchen, braboner in Kingorne confessit his fault of charmeing of persons of the fallen sicknes: ordained to acknowledg his fault upon Sunday nixt in Kingorne befoir the pulpett, and crave

God and the congregation pardone thairfor with certification that if ever he salbe found to doe the lyk again, he salbe halden guiltie of the cryme of witchcraft and pursued thairfoir as for ane poynt of witchcraft. Robert Lambert in Kingorne, being sowmonit for the 2 tyme, called, compeired not: is ordeined to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 3, for the slaughter of John Dow. Also Andro Bosuell now trelaps in fornicatioun, and not yet haveing satisfied for his second fault, being sowmonit to compeir befoir the Sessioun of Kingorne, called, compeired not: is ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. Mr Thomas Bigger gave in his accompt of resaits and disbursements of the moneyes collectit be him for the redemptioun of Alexander Lathrice in Dysert, and David Kirkcaldie in Kingorne, deteined as slaves in the Spanish galeyes: to be considered be the brethren. Robert Spens remembrit.

Visitatioun of the kirk of Balingrie holden within the Paroch Kirk of the samyn upon the second day of Junii 1636 years, by the brethren of the Presbytery viz., Doctor John Michelsone, Moderator, Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert, Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers at Kirkcaldie, Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Thomas Powtie, Minister at Leslie, Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister at Markinche, and Mr David Anderson, Minister at the said kirk at Ballingrie.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, preached upon the Chap 2 to Cor: Epist: vs 10, 11, 12. Edict being served: returned indorsat. The minister being removed for his tryell the elders present praised God for him, approved him both in doctrin and in lyfe and conversatioun. Lykewayes the elders being removed for thair tryell the minister praised God for them and approved them in thair office. The names of the heretors of the Paroche ar:—

John Erle of Rothess; John Erle of Weyms; Sir Georg Bosuell; Mrs Alexander Colvill; James Scrimgeor; John Michell; John Puggill; John Bedsone; John Grig; John Patersone; James Robertsone who ar also elders, except the Erles of Rothess and Weyms who are residents thair.

Compeired James Ayton in name of the Erle of Rothess, James Kyninmonth in name of the Erle of Wemys, James Bedsone for his father, and Mr David Andersone minister, for Mr Alexander Colvill, all the rest being present except James Scrimgeor, Sir Georg Bosuell and James Robertsone.

The brethren and all the heretors agreed and thinks it expedient that thair salbe a schole. The brethren of the Presbytrie considereing and adyseing anent the provision for the said schole thinks that the meanest provision that can be appoyntit for ane scholemaster thair is ane hundreth merks yearlie, and thairfoir ordeanes and appoynts ane hundreth merks yearlie to be payit be the heretors of

Balingrie for the maintenance of the scholemaster thair. The Moderator and remanent brethren desyres the heretors to stent themselfs according to thair pleughs whilk ar fyftein and ane half in number for the payeing of the said hundreth merks and that betwixt this and the last of Junii, with certificatioun if they doe not befoir the said day that they will stent them for the samyn according to thair power and commissioun given to them. James Kyninmonth proponed in name of my Lord of Weyms that thair might be a place in the kirk appoyntit for him to place a seate in for the lands of Lochhead.

The Presbytrie thinks the said request reasonable, and thairfoir ordaines the minister and sessioun of Ballingrie to appoynt ane place to him for a seate, whilk if the minister and they cannot agree upon they will appoynt the samyne themselves. The Presbytrie thinks meit that Master John Chalmer shall proceed no further aganist James Abercrombie, till the visitatioun of the kirk of Auchterdirran, as also gives warrand to the said Mr John Chalmer to proceed aganest Cristian Kynninmonth to caus hir remove and separat from James Abercrombie. The brethren thinks expedient for the better keiping of the visitatioun that in tyme comeing they shall begin at Dysert the nixt day, and so proceid according to the order of the exercise. Robert Lambert in Kingorne being sowmonit, called, compeired not: ordained to be sowmonit openlie. Also Andro Bosuell to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 3. Ordaines James Lundie to be sowmonit to the visitatioun of Dysert this day fyftein dayes, and the ordiner exercise to hold the nixt day att Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 9, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . The kirk of Dysert is appoyntit to be visited: Mr Robert Cranstowne appoyntit to preache thair. Andro Bosuell being sowmonit, pro 3, called, compeired not: is ordained to be proceeded aganest publicklie. Robert Lambert, being publicklie warnit to compeir and mak his repentance for the cruell slaughter of Thomas Dow, called, compeired not: is appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Dysert holden within the paroche kirk of the samyne upon the 16 day of Junii, be the Moderator and brethren of the Presbytrie, viz:—Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, Moderator; Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister at Markinche; Mr James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie; Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, Minister at Kingorne; Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook; Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr Thomas Powtie, Minister at Leslie; Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie; and Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister at Skunie, who preached the said day upon the 4 Chap. of the 1 Epist. to the Cor., vrss 1, and Mr William Nairn, Parsone and Minister of the said kirk of Dysert. The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the Elders.

The Parson being removed for his tryell the Elders praises God for him, and approves him both in his doctrin, and in lyfe, and conversatioun. The Elders also being removed for thair tryell, the Parson returned praises to God for them, and approved them in thair office.

The brethren of the Presbytrie regrated the estait of My Lord Sinclair, his Ile, that is altogither decayed in the glass in windoes of the samyne. My Lord Sinclair himself being present his L. promeises to repair the samyne with expidition. The commissioun direct from My Lord Archbishope of St Androis for visitatiouns of the kirks with the copy of the act of Secrett Counsell for provydeing maintenance for scholes. The brethren and elders conveinit thinks it verie expedient that thair be a gud schole, and that it have maintenance. The brethren of the Presbytrie considering the necessitie of a schole, heir and utilitie thairof, they thinks that thre hundreth merks yearlie and no less, a fit maintenance for the samyne, and thairfoir ordaines thre hundreth merks yearlie to be the stipend for the master of the schole of Dysert, and the samyne to be payit thus :—tuo hundreth merks thairof to be payit be the towne of Dysert, and the third hundreth be the heretors of the lands of the paroch and thairfoir the brethren ordeans the heretors present, viz. :—

My Lord Sinclair, Sir Georg Hamilton of Blaikburne, and John Wemys, appeirand of Bogie, in name of his Goodshyre, for the lands of Wester Bogie to stent themselfs with the rest of the heretors for paying of the said third hundreth merks betwixt this and the fyftein day of Julii nixt to come with certificatioun that if they stent not themselfs betwixt this and the said day, they, according to thair power and commissioun grantit to them, will stent them for paying of the samyne, and ordeanes that the scholes of the Presbytrie be visited everie year. The brethren appoynts the kirk of Kirkcaldie to be visited the nixt Thursday, and ordeanes Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert, to preache thair at the said visitatioun ; further, the brethren for the more sure and readiest way of preacheing at the visitatiouns, appoynts that the brother who hes his kirk visited, sal preache at the visitatioune of the nixt kirk. Compeired Robert Lambert : ordained to confess his murther and mak satisfactioun thairfoir to the kirk of Kingorne. James Lundie being sowmonit, called, compeired not : ordained to be proceeded aganest.

Junii 23, 1636.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kirkcaldie holden within the Paroche kirk of the samyne upon the 23 day of Junii 1636 year be Doctor John Michaelsone, Moderator and Minister at Burntiland; Mr Alexr Scrimgeor, Minister at Kingorne; Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook; Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr Thomas Powtie and Mr John Smith, Ministers at Leslie; Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister at Markinche; Mr Fredrik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie; Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister at Skunnie; Mr William Nairn, Parson at Dysert, who preached at the said visitatioun upon the 12 verss of the 5 Chapter of the 1 Epistle to the Corinthians,

Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers of the said kirk of Kirkcaldie.

The edict was returned served, and indorsat with the names of the elders and heritors.

The Ministers and Reider being removed for thair tryells the elders present praise God for them, and approve them both in doctrin and in thair lives and conversatiouns ; also all persons that had any thing to object aganest any of them being sowmonit at the kirk door to compeir and be hard : none compeired. The elders also being removed for thair tryells the ministers returning praise God for them also, bot desyred them to be admonished to keip the sessioun better, whilk was done. Also all persons who had any thing to object aganest any of them being sowmonit at the kirk doore to compeir and be hard : no man compeired. James Weyms, fiar of Bogie, compeired for his Gudshyr for the lands of Bogie, Bennachie etc. The brethren of the Presbytrie after conference with the elders and heretor conveined finds that thair is no certaine nor constant maintenance for ane schole heir, and thairfoir considering the necessitie for a schole heir and maintenance for the samyne, they appoynt and ordaine thrie hundreth merks for the maintenance of the scholemaster to be payit thus :—The towne of Kirkcaldie to pay tuo hundreth merks thairof, and the heretors of the Paroshe for the landward to pay the third hundreth merks and ordeines them to stent themselfs for the payment thairof yearlie, and that betwixt this and the fyfth of August nixt, otherwayes certifieing that they will stent them.

John Weyms fiar of Bogie, protested for himself and in name of the rest of the gentlemen heretors of the Paroshe that seing they must pay a part of the steipend they may have also a vote in the chuseing of the scholemaster. The brethren admonishes Mr John Malcolme, present scholemaster of Kirkcaldie, to be more diligent in his calling. The kirk of Kingorne being to be visited the nixt Thursday. The Moderator declaires that in respect of his necessitie of being absent for settling of ane steipend for the kirk of Burntiland he cannot be present the said day, and thairfoir the brethren appoynts the exercise to be in Dysert the nixt Thursday, and the Tuysday following, the fyfth day of Julii, for the visitatioun of the kirk of Kingorne. Mr Patrik Mearnes is appoyntit to exercise the nixt Thursday in Dysert, Mr John Balvaird to add, T. J. 11, 31.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kingorne holden within the Paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 5 day of Julii be Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, Moderator ; Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook ; Mr Thomas Powtie, Minister at Leslie ; Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie ; Mr William Nairn, Parson at Dysert ; Mr Robert Douglas, Minister at Kirkcaldie, who preached the said day upon the 13 Chap to the Hebrews, vrs 7.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heretors. The Minister and Reider being removed for thair tryells the elders praise God for them, and approved them both in doctrin and lyfe and conversatioun, also all

persons being called to the kirk durr who had any thing to object aganest the minister or reider, none compeired. Sir Georg Hamilton for the lands of Pitkeanie compleanes upon the minister in that he is over strict and vigorous in suteing his taxationes and viccarage dueties, also John Bosuell of Piteadie objectit aganest the minister that he had preached unsownd doctrin viz., that Peter refuised that Christ should wash his feet in pryd; Item—that John the Baptist put Christ aback from him refuseing to baptise him in pryd; also that he is negligent in visiting the sick. The brethren at the return of the minister advertises him of thir things and admonishes him to beware of such doctrin as also of his too great strictness in ingathering his dueties, etc.

The elders also being removed for thair tryell, the minister thankit God for them, and approved them of thair calling. Also all persons being called at the kirk durr who had any complaint aganest any of them to compeir and be hard: none compeired. The brethren finds fault with some holes that ar in the roofe of the kirk desyreing the samyne to be repaired. The commissioun direct from my Lord of St Androis being read with the act of Secret Counsell, for establishing of scholes, and appoynting ane sufficient maintenance for the schoolemaster thairof, all heretors and elders thinks it verie meit and expedient that thair be ane schoole and maintenance thairto. The heretors being desyred be the Moderator and brethren to mak ane voluntar offer of a sufficient maintenance for ane scholemaster wold offer nothing. The brethren thinks that thrie hundreth merks is little enough for the yearlie maintenance of ane scholemaster in Kingorne, and thairfoir appoynts thrie hundreth merks for the maintenance of ane scholemaster in Kingorne yearlie in all tyme comeing—the half thairof to be payit be the towne, and the other half be the heretors of the paroshe according as they stent themselfs in all things concerning the kirk, and ordeanes them to stent themselfs for paying of the said sum of thrie hundreth merks yearlie, betwixt this and the first day of August, otherwayes they will stent them for paying of the samyne. Compeired Isobel Mill, who having brought foorth ane bairn; befoir the birth of the said bairn she affirmed the bairn to be John Ingles, his bairn, as also in the tyme of the birth of the said bairne, bot now she passes from him and affirms that ane straunger whom she knew not, wrestled with hir, and lay with hir, and got the bairn. The said John Ingles also compeiring denyes the bairne to be his (he being ane maryit man). The brethren thinks that the womans first confessioun both befoir the birth and in the tyme thairof, shall stand, and so John Ingles salbe the bairns father. The kirk of Burntiland to be visited Thursday come aught days. Robert Spens, captive, remembrit.

Heretors of the Paroshe of Kingorne:—The Erle of Mortone, the Erle of Kingorne, My Lord of Inverteyll, the Laird of Balmowto, the Laird of Grainge, the Laird of Piteadie, Riggs, General Leslie, the Laird of Blaikburne, the Laird of Pittravie, the Laird of Cardone, William Edinestone of Begg, My Lord of Downe, David Browne of Vicearsgrainge, the Heirs of Fordowne, James Bosuell of Glass-

mouth, David Bosuell of Norther Glassmonth, Andro Rolland of Souther Glassmonth, Robert Cunningham of Wodfield, John Kirkcaldie of Collellou, Robert Thalan of Graingemyre, John Michaelsone of Balbeardie, Robert Orrok, Henrie Shanks, the Heirs of Patrik Wallace, the Heirs of James Kuik, Georg Gay.

1636.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Burntiland holden within the paroche kirk of the samyne, upon the fourteen day of Julii be Mr William Nairne, Parson of Dysert, depute Moderator, Mr James Symeson, and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers at Kirkcaldie; Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, Minister at Kingorne, who preached the said day upon the fyftein vers of the 2 Chap. of the 2 Epist to Timothie; Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr Thomas Powtie, Minister at Leslie; Mr Robert Cranstown, Minister at Skunie; and Doctor John Michaelson, Minister of the said kirk of Burntiland.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heretors. The Minister and Reider being removed for thair tryell, the elders all in one voice thankit God for them and approves them. All persons being warnit at the kirk durr that had ought to object aganest them: none compeired. The elders also being removed for thair tryell, the minister praises God for them and approves them in thair calling. Also all persons that had complaint aganest any of them being sowmonit at the kirk durr: none compeired. The commissioun with the act of Secret Counsell being read for planting of scholes, the heretors acknowledges the expediencie and necessitie of ane schole and scholemaster, and maintenance for the samyne, bot being removed and brought in againe will mak no offer of maintenance, and thairfoir the brethren according to thair power appoynts thrie hundreth merks yearlie to be the maintenance of the scholemaster, and his successers heir in all tyme comeing to be payit thus:—Tuo hundreth merks be the towne, and the third hundreth be the heretors of the paroche, and ordeanes the heretors to stent themselfs for the paying thairof betwixt this and the fourtenth day of August, otherwayes they will stent them. The kirk of Auchterdirran is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day Thursday. Robert Spens remembrit.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Auchterdirran holden within the paroche kirk of the samyne upon the 21 day of Julii, be Doctor John Michaelson, Moderator, who preached the said day upon Colloss. 4, vrs. 17. Mr William Nairne, Parson of Dysert; Mr Robert Douglas, Minister at Kirkcaldie; Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr John Chalmer of the said kirk of Auchterdirran.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heretors whereof thair wer present James Weyms of Pitkeanie, and in name of the Erle of Weyms, Sir Georg Bosuell of Balgonie, Knyt., David Bedsone of Carden, James Scrimgeor for his brother, Mr David Scrimgeor of Bowhill, John Colyear of Lochgellie,

The Minister being removed for his tryell, the elders praise God for him, and approved him both in his lyfe and conversatioun, and in his doctrin. Also all persons being sowmonit at the kirk durr that had anything to object aganest him: none compeired, except William Ingles in Easter Cowhalie, who regretted that the Minister wold not give his sonnes the communion thir tuo years bygon. The Minister returning ansred that the said William with his thrie sonnes had done ane great wrong and ane ryot aganest David Bosuell of Lochgellie, and as yet had never given nor yet offered satisfactioun to the partie.

The brethren approves Mr John Chalmer in so doeing, and appoynts Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe to David Bosuell and deall with him for settleing of that mater. The elders also being removed, the minister praises God for them, and approves them in thair calling as faithfull. Also all persons sowmonit at the kirk durr who had any complaint aganest them, to compeir and be hard: none compeired.

The commissioun and act of Secret Counsell being read for settling and provyding of scholes, all heretors and elders present thinks it both expedient and necessarie that thair be ane schole thair, and that thair be ane maintenance appoyntit for the scholemaster thairof, bot wold mak no offer. The brethren of the Presbytrie thynks that foir scoir of punds is little enough for maintenance of the said schole, and thairfoir appoynts foirscoir of punds to be the maintenance thairof, and ordaines the heretors to stent themselfs for paying of the samyne within the space of ane moneth, otherwayes they according to thair power will stent them.

The Laird of Carden reportit that James Abercrombie, portioner of Straruddie, had promeised to begin his repentance the nixt Sabbath day. The brethren ordeanes Mr John Chalmer, Minister, to proceid aganest him with the sentence of excommunicatioun, except he doe the samyne. The kirk of Kinglessie is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day, and Mr John Chalmer to preache thair.

The heretors of the Parochine of Auchterdirran:—

> John Erle of Weyms; John Sinclar of Balgreggie; David Bosuell of Balmowto, Patrik Murray for his interest, Patrik Kyninmonth of that ilk; Mr David Scrimgeor of Bowhill; Sir Georg Bosuell of Balgonie; Mr James Weyms of Montquhanie; David Bosuell of Lochgellie; Georg Bosuell of West Mill; James Colvill of Balbedie; David Betson of Cardon; David Arnott of Kapildrae; John Colyear of Lochgellie; James Weyms of Pitkeanie; James Abercrombie, portioner of Straruddie.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kinglessie holden within the Paroche kirk of the samyn, upon the 28 day of Julii be Doctor John Michaelson, Minister of Burntiland, Moderator; Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister at Markinche; Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert; Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers at Kirkcaldie; Mr David Anderson, Minister at Ballingrie; Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook; Mr Frederik Carmichael, Minister at Kennoquhie; Mr

Thomas Melvill, Minister at the said kirk, and Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, who preached the said day, Text, Titus 2, 7.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heritors. The Minister and Reider having been removed for thair tryells the haill elders praise God for them, and approved them both in doctrin as also in lyfe and conversatioun. Also all person being called at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest them: none compeired. The elders also being removed for thair tryell, the minister thanked God and approved them as faithfull in thair calling. Also all persons being sowmonit to the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest any of them to compeir and be hard: none compeired. The commission and act of Secret Counsel being read for planting of scholes and appoynting a sufficient maintenance for the scholemasters, the haill heritors thinks that a schole is both necessarie and expedient, and willinglie offers ane hundreth merks yearlie, for the maintenance of the scholemaster and the said schole. The brethren thinks that ane hundreth punds is little enough, and appoints ane hundreth punds for the said schole in tyme comeing. The heritors protest that the half chalder of black oats whilk the said scholemaster hes presentlie, may be a part of the samyne hundreth punds whilk they promeise to mak woorth fyftie merks to him. The Laird of Colairnie and William Wardlaw desyres that they may have places for seats in the kirk. The brethren refers that to the Sessioun of Kinglessie.

The names of the heritors of Kinglessie:—

Sir David Creightone of Lugtowne, Knyt; David Browne of Kinmonth; Mr Robert Aytone of Inchdernie; Robert Bruce of Blairhall; Sir Henrie Wardlaw of Pitravie, Knyt; David Bosuell of Milldeans; Sir David Barclay of Colairnie, Knyt; Patrik Kyninmonth of that Ilk; David Aytone of Kinglessie; Henrie Wardlaw of Pitlochie; Mr James Schoner of Caskyberrian, Robert Aytone of Finglessie; Sir Alex Clark of Pittincreif, Knyt; William Monteath of Randifuird; David Crystie of Overstowne; Isobel Barron; Bessie Barron.

August 3.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Portmook halden within the kirk of the samyne upon the third day of August be Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, Moderator; Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister at Markinche; Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr David Anderson, Minister at Ballingrie, who preached the said day upon the 1 Ep. to the Thess. 5, 12; and Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister of the said kirk of Portmook.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heretors. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryell, the elders praises God for them, and approves them both in doctrin, and in lyfe and conversatioun. All persons also who had anything to object aganest any of them being called at the kirk durr to be hard: none compeired. The elders also being removed for thair tryell, the minister praises God for them, and approves them in thair calling. Also all persons being called at the kirk durr who had any plaint aganest any of them

to compeir and be hard: none compeired. The haill elders and heretors regraites the uncommodiousnes of the kirk, and desyres the samyne to be signified to the Assemblie and to the Bishop. The commissioun and act of Secret Counsell concerning planting of scholes, and appoynting maintenance for the scholemasters being read, the haill heretors conveined thinks it both necessarie and expedient that thair be a schole, and that the scholemaster thairof should have sufficient maintenance, bot will mak no offer. The brethren of the Presbytrie thinks fourscoir of punds littil enough for the maintenance of ane scholemaster thair, and thairfoir appoynts fourscoir of punds to be payit yearlie to the scholemaster of Portmook and his successors and to stent themselfs for payment thairof.

The names of the heretors of Portmook. The Erle of Mortone, the Laird of Arnett, the Laird of Fynmonth, the Laird of Auchmuir, Malcolm Young in Finatie, John Davidson thair John Arnot of Vanie.

The visitation of the kirk of Markinche holden within the paroche kirk of the sayme, upon the elevnith day of August be Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland; Moderator Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert; Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran; Mr David Anderson, Minister at Ballingrie; Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie; Mr Robert Cranstown, Minister at Skunnie; Mr Thomas Melville, Minister at Kinglessie; Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, who preached the said day upon the 48 Chapter of Jeremie, vers 10, and Doctor Andro Lawmonth, Minister of the said kirk.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders.

The minister and reider being removed for thair tryell the elders praises God for them and approves them both in doctrine and in lyfe and conversatioun. Also all persons being called at the kirk durr that had anything to object aganest them: none compeired.

The elders also being removed for thair tryell, the minister praises God for them and approves them in thair calling. Also all persons being called at the kirk durr that had any plaint aganest them; none compeired.

The minister regratted that those elders who ar in the east part of the paroche keips not the sessioun weill.

The commissioun with the act of Secret Counsell anent the planting of scholes and providing sufficient manitenance for the scholemasters being read, all the heretors acknowledged that a schole was both necessarie and expedient, and offered ane hundreth punds willinglie yearlie for the maintenance thairof. The brethren of the Presbytrie thinks that two hundreth merks is over litill for the yearlie maintenance of ane scholemaster thair in respect it is ane important paroche, thair being thriescoir and four plewhs and auchtein mills within the samyne, and gives the heretors this day aught dayes to advyse better.

Mr John Chalmer presented ane complant direct from his sessioune aganest James Abercrombie who after a barbarouss maner come into the kirk of Auchterdirran and thair kest ane seatt foorth in the middest of the kirk and said who durst remove

it againe, as the said complaint at mair length bears, etc. The brethren promeises to concur with him in seiking redress thairof.

Master John Balvaird gave in the compt of the charges debursit be his uncle, Mr David Martin, minister at Auchtertule, upon the Kirk Manss desyring the sayme to be registrat in the Presbytrie book *ad futurum rei memoriam* to the intent the samyne be obteined be his Exr from his successor whilk desyre the brethren thought reasonable, and thairfor ordeaned the clerk to registrat the samyne.

Robert Lasons nevoy, whose father and mother are both dead to be remembrit at the visitation of the kirk of Weyms. The kirk of Kennoquhie to be visited this day aught dayes.

The names of the heritors of the Paroshe of Markinche.

John, Erle of Weyms, my Lord of Durie, the Laird of Balfour, Sir David Auchmowtie of that Ilk, James Law of Burntown, James Clark of Balbirnie, David Lindsay of Kirkforther, Robert Beaton of Bandirran, John Borthwick of Bichtie, David Landells of Cowl, William Landells of Balcurvie, John Dalrymple of Newtown, General Leslie of Balgonie, Mr William Bruce of Balquharg, Robert Lundie of Spitall, the Laird of Pyetstowne, The Laird of Carristowne.

The compt of expenses debursit be Mr David Martin, minister at Auchtertule, in building and repaireing his manss whereof the particulars follows :—

First, for building of ane parpan wall betwixt the hall and west chalmer and materials thairto, 5 lbs.

Item making the durr and durr cheiks thairof, 20sh.

Item for ane lock, bands, cruik, stapills, & naules to the durr of the said chalmer, 24sh.

Item for glass to the hall and chalmer, 50sh.

Item for glass to the said windoes, 24sh.

Item for ane other parpan wall betwixt the hall and east chalmer and materials thairto, 40sh.

Item for thrie loads of lyme to sparge the walls thairof, 40sh.

Item for ane durr to the east chalmer, 20sh.

Item for the bigging of the walls of the stable, 9lb. 10sh.

Item for timber to the stable, 5 lbs.

Item for two dealls to be ane maunger, 18 sh.

Item for ane trie to be ane haik, 15 sh.

Item for naules and workman schipp of the said haik and maunger, 24 sh.

Item for bigging the walls of the barne, 8 lbs.

Item for binding of tuo cupells, makeing of the durr cheiks and durrs thairto overhead. 5 lbs.

Item for cruiks, bands, and staples to the doores, 20 sh.

Item for ane yron slott to the easte barne door, 6sh. 8d.

Item for winnin of half ane hundreth stanes to be cunyies, rebuts, lintells, and peatstanes to the high chalmer on the east end of the hall, 3 lbs.

Item for leading of the said stones, 40 sh.

Item for tuentie loads of lymestanes and slocking thairof, 8 lbs. 10sh.

Item for the mason work of the east chalmer, 45 lbs. 4sh.

Item for leading fourscoir laids of sand from Lochgellie to the said work, 4 lbs

Item for leading wall-stones from Newtowne Hills to the said work, 40 sh.

Item for twentie nyne elle tries to be cupells thereto, 9 lbs.

Item for caryeing of these from Dysert, 20 sh.

Item for six great tries to be beams and lath, 3 lbs, 13 sh.

Item for ane dusone of dealls to lay the fluire thairof, 6 lbs.

Item for caryeing of the saide dealls, 16 sh.

Item for ane chalder of lyme to the said work, 3lb. 6sh. 8d.

Item for fyve iron stanchers to the windoes thairof weighand two stone and nyne punds, 4 lbs.

Item for two pund and ane quarter of lead to put them in, 5 sh.

Item to John Finnie for winning of the twentie pieces of stones to the chimney and head of the east chalmer, 4 lb. 16 sh.

Item for makeing of tress, brackits and barrowes to the said works, 12 sh.

Item for binding of the cupells, saweing the lath, and naileing thairof, 6lbs.

Item for ane midcuple and putting ane cuppell in the hall, 15sh.

Item for two great iron naules to bind the said cuppill, 2sh.

Item for ane uther dusson of deals to the said work, 4lbs. 16sh.

Item for half ane hundreth double naules to lay the floore, 8sh.

Item for thrie hundreth plencher naules, 24sh.

Item to the wrights for layeing the loft and making of a stair thairto, 3lbs.

Item for two dealls to outred the said chair to the chalmer, 16sh.

Item for kaisses and brods to the thrie windoes thairof, 5lbs. 10sh.

Item for bands, snecks, rings, and naules thairto, 46sh.

Item for elevin foots of glass to the windoes of the heigh chalmer, 44sh.

Item for making ane durr to the said stair, 12sh.

Item for ane trie to be cheiks and soletrie thairto, 8sh.

Item for bands to the said durr, 8sh.

Item for ane lock and key to the said durr, 12sh.

Item for ane hundreth and five naules, 13sh. 4d.

Item for two hundreth plencher naules to the lath, 15sh.

Item for beamefuling of the walls and laying the hearthstone thairof, 40sh.

Item for casting of the walls and dressing of the soles of the windoes, 12sh.

Item for four greatt batts of iron weighing two stones, and six punds lead, and inputing of them in the wall of the east chalmer, 6lbs. 13sh.

Item for thrie dusson of deals to be ane portal durr to the hall and to cover the outsyde of the chimney of hall, 4lbs.

Item for workmanschip thairof, 53sh. 4d.

Item for ane pair of bands to the said portal door, 6sh. 8d.

Item for two hundreth naules to the said work, 19sh.

Item for ane hundreth plauncher nauls thairto, 8sh.

Item for ane uther quarter hundreth plencher nauls, 2sh. 6d.

Item for ane pair of bands to the laigh chalmer durr in the east side of the hall, 6sh. 8d.

Item for four tries to be beames to the lofting of the hall, 40s.

Item for ane dusson of deals to lay the loft thairof, 4lbs. 16sh.

Item for ane dusson of deals to be ane pantrie and ane portal door to the heigh chalmer, 4lbs. 16sh.

Item for ane great trie to be wragging thairto, 15sh.

Item for ane hundreth plencher naules to the said works, 9sh.

Item for ane hundreth durr naules to the said work, 5sh.

Item for ane quarter hundreth durr naules thairto, 12d.

Item for lock and key to the portal durr in the heigh chalmer, 10sh.

Item for ane pair of bands thairto, 6sh. 8d.

Item for the wright for his workmanschippe, 3lbs. 12sh.

Item for the mason craft of ane workhous or kitchine, 6lbs.

Item for makeing ane cuppell and durr cheik thairof, 24sh.

Item for ane riggintrie and ane other trie to the durr cheik, 16sh.

Item for four dealls to be ane door to the kitchine and ane door to the yaird, 44sh.

Item for locks and keyes to the said door and gait, 18sh.

Item for cruiks, bands, and naules to the samyne, 24sh.

Item for the mason for the workmanschippe of winning of the stones and lintell of the said yaird gate, 40sh.

Item for the makeing of the yaird gate and doore of the kitching, 12sh.

Summa, 222lbs. 12sh. 2d.

Sic subscribitur,

Mr David Martine.

The visitation of the Kirk of Kennoquhie, holden within the Paroche Kirk of the samyne upon the 10 day of August be Dr John Michaelson, Moderator. . . . . The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and heretors. The minister being removed for his tryell the haill parochiners present thankit God for him, also all persons being thryce called upon at the kirk durrs who had any thing to object against him to compeir: none compeired. Anent the plantation and settleing of ane schole at the Kirk of Kennoquhie, all the elders and heretors conveined thinks it both necessarie and expedient that thair be ane schole bot will mak no offer. The brethren of the Presbytrie thinks that foirscoir of punds litil enough for yearlie maintenance thairof being ane parochine of threttie tuo plewghs. The Presbytrie gives them betwixt this and the to adyse amongst themselfs and to stent themselfs for paying of the fourscoir punds yearlie for the maintenance of the scholemaster of the said paroche.

James Law of Burntoune in the Parochine of Markinche declares that the heretors of Markinche ar willing to give six scoir of punds yearlie for main-

tenance of the scholemaster at Markinche. The Presbytrie thinks 200 merks litil enough, as said is. The said James Law of Burntowne and James Pitcairne of Treaton protests that ilk ane of them may have ane seat in the Kirk of Kennoquhie seeing they are parochiners. The Presbytrie refers that mater to the Sessioun of Kennoquhie.

The Kirk of Skunnie is appoynted to be visited the nixt Thnrsday, and Mr Frederik Carmichael appoynted to preache thair.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Skunie holden within the paroche kirk of the samyne upon the 25 day of August be Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, Moderator. . . . . The edict with the names of the elders and heretors returned indorsat. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryells, the elders thankit God for them and approved them. Also all persons being called at the kirk durr that had anything to object aganest them : none compeired. The commissioun and act of Counsell anent the plantatioun of scholes being read, hard, and considered, all the heretors grants that a schole is both necessarie and expedient, and maintenance thairto. The minister reports that he had spoken with the Erle of Weyms, who promeised to acquiess to whatsoever salbe done or grantit be the rest of the heretors. The heretors in respect of My Lord of Durie, his absence (in respect of necesser and great affairs in Edr, whom they wold have wishit to be present), desyres of the brethren ane continuatioun of the provisioun of the schole till he be present, whom they hope shall give all contentment. The brethren grants them fyftein dayes space, and appoynts the minister to report thairafter.

Mr Patrik Mearns in name of the Erle of Weyms desyres ane continuatioun of the visitatioun of the kirk of the Weyms, whilk he promeises salbe betwixt this and Michelmess, whilk is grantit. The said Mr Patrik is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, Mr Jon Blyth to add.

The names of the heretors and elders of the Kirk of Skunie :—John Erle of Weyms, Sir Alexander Gibson of Durie ; Mr Alexander Gibson, Fiar of Durie ; William Rigg of Athernie, David Wemys of Fingask ; David Aytone of Kinadie ; David Wemys of Rumgallie ; Henrie Landells of Kilmux ; James Scrimgeor, portioner of Drumaird.

Stein Redpath in Levin ; James Sibbald, thair ; Archibald Halkhead thair ; Robert Hay, thair ; David Anderson, thair ; Andro Williamsone, thair ; James Melvill, thair ; Andro Young, thair ; Andro Melvill in Skunnie, Andro Wilkie in Haugh ; Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth ; Andro Henrisone in Balgromno ; Georg Walker in Athernie, James Jameson, thair ; Thomas Geddie, in Letham ; Georg Robertsone in Durie ; Andro Robertson, in Duriecotton ; Andro Geddie in Drumaird.

DYSERT, *September* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . The kirk of Weyms is appoyntit to be visited this day aught dayes, and the Moderator to preache thair. Compeired William Browne

in Burntiland, adulterer with Elspet Bruce : resaved his first injunctioun ; remitted to his minister. Mr David Scrimgeor craved of the brethren thair testimonial of his travels being to remove foorth of the countrie. The Presbytrie appoynts the clerk to writt the samyne.

1636.

The visitation of the kirk of Weyms holden within the paroche kirk of the samyne upon the 8 day of September be Doctor John Michaelson, Moderator. . . .

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders.

The minister and reider being removed for thair tryell the elders praise God for them and approve them. Also intimation being maid at the kirk durr that if any person had anything to object aganest any of them to compeir and be hard : none compeired. The elders also being removed for thair tryell the minister praised God for them, also none compeired to object aganest any of them.

Anent the planting and provision of the schole of the Weyms the commission and act of Secret Counsell being read—The Earle of Weyms and Robert Swyne, onlie heretors being present with my Lord Elcho, they think a schole both necessarie and expedient. The Erle of Weyms willinglie promeises ane hundreth merks for maintenance of the scholemaster by and attour all that he hes alreadie whilk he says will be worth 300 merks. The brethren thinks it reasonable and acquieses with it. Mr Robert Cranstown, Minister of Skunie, reported that my Lord of Durie, with sundrie others of the parochiners, heretors had condescended to give ane hundreth merks yearlie in augmentation to the scholemaster of that paroche whilk the brethren think overlitil and thinks all that one hundreth punds is little enough.

The whilk day John Mackie in Dysert compleaned upon Robert Lawson in the Weyms for burdening himself with the interteyneing of his nevoy whose father and mother wer dead, seing he is the bairn's Gudshyre and thairfoir ought rather than he. The brethren thinks that Robert Lawson should be maid to tak the bairne. The Earle of Weyms promeises to caus him doe the samyne.

Robert Spens remembrit. Robert Crystie his supplication was read, etc.

The names of the heretors of the Weyms :—John Erle of Weyms, Robert Swyne of Methill.

The names of the elders and deacons :—John Erle of Weyms, My Lord of Elcho, David Weyms, Harie Weyms, Robert Browne, David Russell, Alexander Thomson, James Walker, William Laverok, Andro Patrik, James Swyne, Michael Drone, John Colvin, James Cowan, Robert Bennettie, Andro Laverok, David Swyne, David Keddie, Robert Keddie, David Beans, Thomas Currer, Thomas Nicoll, Walter Barker, John Lumsden, David Ingles, Archbald Smith, James Walker, Yr., Alexr. Mason, Thomas Thomson, Alexr. Thomson, John Mackie, Robert Daniell, John Dougall, John Crystie, Robert Swyne, George Walker, George Walker, Yr., William Forman, William Browne, John Rynd, Thomas Pringal, Henrie Dalrmyple, Andro Potter.

KIRKALDIE, *September* 15, 1636.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson exercised without addition. . . . .

DYSERT, *September*, 22.

The whilk day Mr Frederik Carmichel exercised for Mr Robert Douglas.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 29.

The whilk day Mr Alexander Scrimgeour exercised. . . . . Compeired Isobel Mill who befoir had confessit adulterie with John Ingles but now denies the saymne. Desyres the minister to deale with hir.

DYSERT, *October* 6.

The whilk day Doctor John Michaelson exercised without addition. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 13.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer exercised. . . . . The Presbytrie books delyverit to Mr James Miller. Robert Spens remembrit.

DYSERT, *October* 20, 1636.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill exercised . . . . . Isobell Heriot ane minister's wyff in England shew hir testemonial. The brethren promeise to help hir.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr William Bell handled the Cowmonhead appoynted to him and sustained disputations thairon, and gave great contentment to the brethren therein, so that upon that whilk they have hard of him and his former testimonials they ar content to give him thair testemonial of approbatioun for the Kirk of Auchtertule and appoynts the clerk to writt the samyne.

DYSERT, *November* 3.

The whilk day Mr John Smith exercised . . . . . Isobell Heriot remembrit.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 10.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised without addition. . . . .

DYSERT, *November* 17, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . David Tullus demandit of the brethren quidder the Mertimes terms duetie of the Stepend of the Weyms perteyned to him (as Exr. to his Umqll. father who departit this lyfe in Junii last) or to Mr Patrik Mearns who entred that kirk in September last. The brethren present thinks it apperteynes to the said David and Mr Patrik Mearns nominats for him the Parson of Dysert and Mr Frederik Carmichel to deale in the said mater to put them to an ease. The whilk persons accepts the samyne upon them and promeises to meit this day fyftein dayes.

Compeired Cristian Kyninmonth, craveing the benefit of mariage to James Abercrombie of Straruddie who is slanderit to have ado with his brother; the said Cristian being content to purge hirself be hir oath that she is frie of the said slander. The brethren remits the mater till a more frequent meiting.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr John Chalmers overture touching James Abercrombies mariage with Crisitan Kyninmonth, the Presbyterie remitts it to himself what he thinks best can satisfie the congregatioun and remove the slander.

Mr William Bell presentit lettres containing his ordinatioun be the Bishop of Dunkeld to the Kirk of Auchtertule, desyreing the brethren to appoynt some of thair number to goe to Auchtertule upon Sonday next to recommend him to the congregatione. They appoynt Mr James Symson and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe thither for that effect.

The said day also compeired Marion Robertsone in the Paroche of Kinglessie, spouse to Robert Swan thair, and affirmed all that was allegit be Mr Thomas Melvill in wreatt aganest Janet Bruce in the Paroche of Kirkcaldie tending to witchcraft to be true.

DYSERT, *December* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symson reportit that Mr Thomas Melvill and he went to Auchtertule the last Saboth and recommendit Mr William Bell, thair minister, to the congregatione, who resaved him and promeised thair obedience to him.

Compeired Margaret Henrison who has fled from Edr, being with bairne to ane Robert Bailie, as she affirms, and delyverit of hir bairne in the parochine of Dysert craving baptisme for hir bairne. Also compeired Janet Jameson, who being with bairne to one James Michaell, servitor to Sir William Hamilton, who fleing from Paisley where she duelt, and where the bairne was gotten was delyverit of hir bairne in the Weyms craveing also baptisme to hir bairne. The Presbytrie sends them both back againe to thair several paroches.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . They appoynt the clerk to advertyse the brethren to conveine frequentlie this day fyftein dayes for taking order with the Bursar of Theologie. Cristian Moutrie in the paroche of Ballingrie being sowmonit: called: compeired not: to be sowmonit for the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 16, 1636.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Cristian Murray, confessit hirself with bairne whilk she fathers upon Robert Law, and denyes that ever she had to doe with James Law. She affirms that James Law lay thryse with hir, the last time about aught dayes befoir the Rude day upon ane Sunday at even in the glomeing at the water side of Lochtie, in the Spittel Bents, and once or twyce befoir

that time, but desynes not particularlie. The tryell of Robert Law being committit to the Parson of Dysert, Mr Mungo Law, Mr Patrik Mearns, and the clerk befoir whom compeired the said Robert Law, and confessit first that he lay with hir twice onlie, and thairafter confessit thryse. The first time, he said, was eight dayes befoir the Rude day, upon ane Sabbath at nyt in a balk, the third time at Lochtie syd among the corn about Lambes in the farder end of harvest, the 2 time in the barn in winter.

DYSERT, *December* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Andersone with Elspett Gudlad, who resaved his last injunctiouns. Compeired James Pitcairne of Treatton craveing of the brethren that seing that thair Bursers place of Theologie is vaikeing, that they wold admitt one of his sonnes to the place. The brethren present, except the Ministers of Kirkcaldie, consents thairto, with this provision, that if thair salbe ane ministers sonne meit for the place, he shall then quyt the samyne, whereto he agrees, bot in respect of the Moderators absence the full determinatioun thairof is continewed till he be present. Robert Law to be sowmonit to the nixt day to be confrontit with Cristian Murray. Compeired Cristian Murray, and affirmit hir to be with bairne to the said Robert Law, and that the first time that he lay with hir was eight dayes befoir the Rude day in the barne, the second time a little thairafter at Lochtie syde, the 3 time in the Bents. Compeired Janet Barron, who being admittit witness aganest hir, deponed that she comeing into Robert Colvills hous where she was serving, the said Roberts wyff being drawing hir breist speired at hir to whom she was with bairne; the said Cristian ansered in hir heireing, to James Law, and said that it wold never get ane other father.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Helen Arnott, witness in the mater anent Cristian Murray deponed that she haveing persaved hir to be with bairne drew hir breist and fownd milk therein, and speiring at hir to whom she was with bairne, she anserit to James Law. Janet Gibb to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Januari* 5, 1637.

The whilk day Mr Andro Michaelson exercised . . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 12, 1637.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised without addition.

DYSERT, *Januari* 19.

The whilk day Mr James Smyeson exercised without addition. . . . .

KIRCALDIE, *Januari* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Robert Law being sowmonit, called: compeired not; ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro. 3.

The Sessioun of Dysert and James Nairn, Merchand Burges of Edr having submitted ane actioun to Doctor John Michaelson, Moderator, and Mr. James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie, the saids persons having accepted the said submissioun upon them gave out thair decreit therein, according to God and a gud consience whilk decreit they ordaine to be insert and registrat in the Presbytrie book *ad futuram rei memoriam* whilk the brethren of the Presbytrie thinks reasonable and thairfoir appoynts the clerk to registrat the samyne decreit whereof the tenor follows :—For so meikle as the sessioun of the Burt. of Dysert and James Nairn, Merchand, Burges of Edr, have submitted ane actioun and business (as they call it) to me, Doctor John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, and Mr James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie, according to ane act of thair owne sessioune sein be us of the dait the third day of Februari 1635, and we takeing the said mater upon us after due deliberatioun and mature advyseing, considereing the reasons and allegatiouns of both parties, having God and ane gud consience befoir our eyes, and willing to end all controversies betwixt them discernes and ordeanes the Sessioun of Dysert to deliver and pay to James Nairn ane hundreth and fyftie punds Scotts and that befoir the 22 day of Februar nixt to come for these reasons : First, wee find that Mr Allan Lawmonth, reider at Dysert, who had at that time fyftie punds payit to him yearlie be the Sessioun of Dysert was justlie awand tuo hundreth punds to James Nairn as his bond and obligation testified, and that the said Mr Allan Lawmonth having no other meane to pay the said James Nairn did renounce and overgive in favours of the said James Nairn the foirsaid fytie punds for the space of four years and that for satisfactioun of the foirsaid sum of tuo hundreth punds that thairupon the ministers of Dysert, Mr William Nairn and Mr William Spittell, Moderators of the sessioun, with thair consent did by thair handwritting promise payment to James Nairn, who then did deliver to Mr Allan Lawmonth his bond to be cancelled and was content to resave satisfactioun be the Sessioun of Dysert. Secondlie, wee find that the Sessioun of Dysert was in use of payment and payit one year, viz., fiftie punds to James Nairn. Thirdlie, we find that the said James hes ane decreit of the Lords of Sessioun and letters of horneing aganest the ministers, moderators, and so consequentlie aganest the Sessioun of Dysert. Fourthlie, we find it to be of veritie that James Nairn these sundrie years bygone wanteth the use of his money and hes debursit money in the pursueing and seiking thairof. Fyftlie, we find it to be of veritie that the removeing of Mr Allan Lawmonth hath bein no hurt to the Sessioun of Dysert, bot ane occasioun to keip in thair purss ane hundreth merks yearlie as wee know particularlie so that his removeing is profitable for thair sessioun. We decerne that in caice the Sessioun of Dysert satisfie not James Nairn at this time that then they satisfie the said James according to the act of Parliament. Lastly, wee decerne James Nairn after resaveing of the money to give the Sessioun of Dysert ane sufficient discharge thairof.

Sic subscribitur

JOHN MICHAELSON.
Mr JAMES SYMESON.

DYSERT, *Februari* 2, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . James Law being sowmonit : called, compeired not : is appoyntit to be proceeded aganest. Compeired James Colme, trelapse : is ordered to satisfie as ane adulterer.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Law, servitor to John Colyear in Kirkcaldie, being demandit anent the bairne fathered upon him be Cristian Murray, whilk is supposed to be his brothers, James Law. He deneyes altogither that he ever knew hir, bot confessit that he wes intysed to tak the bairne upon him for saveing of his brothers lyfe.

A letter sent from my Lord of St. Androis and one from Mr James Blair, minister at Portpatrik, for support to the harbour at Portpatrik being read, the brethren promeises to recommend the said mater to thair several paroches. The Moderator to exercise the nixt day, Mr William Bell to add. Text, John 12, 27.

DYSERT, *Feb.* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Forbes and Margaret Gibson, parochiners of Kinglessie, confessit adulterie with others : both resaved their first injunctions.

David Tullus gave in ane petitioun for some alledgit clerk fees adebtit to him for his Umqll. father Mr John Tullus. The brethren ar content that all these brether who had use of his fathers service in the clerkschipe shall everie one of them give him ane dollar and everie other brother half a dollar in respect he is a ministers sonne.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 23, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . James Law of Lochtiesyde to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Sir Georg Bosuell of Litil Balgonie to be sowmonit to this day fyftein dayes to anser for the slander of adulterie alledgit upon him with Margaret Alexander.

Cristian Burne in the parochine of Kennoquhie to be sowmonit to the nixt day, being with bairne (as she affirms) to ane wayfaireing man, she knows not whom, bot allegit to be gotten in incest with hir father-in-law.

DYSERT, *March* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . James Law being sowmonit : called, compeired not : is to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2.

Compeired Cristian Burne in the Parochine of Kennoquhie confesses hirself with bairne to an uncouth man whom she knew not, she being comeing from Kennoquhie to Downefield, the man being comeing from Falklandward to Dundie as she affirms, and lay with hir betwixt Duthven and Downfield, who she said called himself James Robertsone, and that it was upon ane Tyesday in the morning about eight hours in the beginning of harvest upon the west side of Duthven, a gud piece from the towne, and that the man sat downe upon ane dyke

and she went home to hir mother sore weipeing bot told hir not. Once she said it was comeing from Downefield. Sowmonit *apud acta* to be present the nixt Thursday in Kirkcaldie. Sir Georg Bosuell to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 9, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . Compeired Cristian Burne, demandit as befoir anent hir bairnes father, anserit as befoir. Being demandit if she was suspectit of any other man, she anserit that some suspectit hir with one John Miller and others with hir father-in-law: ordained to separat hirself from hir father-in-law. Mr Frederik Carmichel affirmed that he should prove be witnesses that she was sein lying with hir father-in-law befoir he was maryit with hir mother. Sir Georg Bosuell being sowmonit: called, compeired not: ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2, also Margaret Alexander, with whom he is suspect of adulterie to the nixt day pro 1. Cristian Russell to be sowmonit to the nixt day for not haunting hir paroche kirk and refuseing to come thair. David Tullus remembrit.

DYSERT, *March* 16.

The whilk day . . . . Margaret Alexander being sowmonit: called, compeired not: is ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Sir Georg Bosuell and Cristian Russell being warnit, called, compeired not: ar ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 23, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . Compeired Sir Georg Bosuell denyes that he ever had to doe with Margaret Alexander bot will not be content to be confrontit with hir, and persaveing the Presbytrie to proceed aganest him he appealls from them to the Synodall Assemblie, bot gives no reason thairof nayther be word nor wreatt, and thairfoir the Presbytrie have resolvit to proceed aganest him and ordeanes him to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Compeired Margaret Alexander, affirms that hir bairne whilk she hes brought foorth is to Sir Georg Bosuell and that Andro Pearson who was said to be hir bairnes father never medled with hir and that the caus why she so said was that Sir Georg Bosuell allured her so to doe, who said to hir that if that bairne wer fathered upon him he wold be behuvit to leave the cuntrey, who promeised to give hir ane aiker of land and a cowes grass, etc., and he gave hir ane furlott of meale and 24 turnois, and that he pursued hir four years befoir she-acceptit of him, and that the said Sir Georg, his wyff, sent for hir, and bad hir goe to Mr John Chalmer, hir minister, and deny againe. Cristian Russell, not compeiring, is ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Compeired Isobell Mill, and confessit that the bairnes father that she hes brought foorth is John Ingles ane other wyffes husband, and that Helen Cofe, midwyff, come to hir after the birth and bad hir deny againe that the bairne was to John Ingles who resaves hir first injunctions. Helen Cofe to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 30, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . Sir Georg Bosuell being sowmonit: called, compeired not, but sent ane letter direct onlie to Doctor John Michaelson, Moderator, with his servand. He is ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Cristian Russell being sowmonit pro 3, called, compeired not: is ordeaned to be warned publicklie pro 1 the nixt day under the paine of disobedience.

DYSERT, *April* 6.

The whilk day . . . . Sir Georg Bosuell being warrnit: called, compeired not, is ordeaned to be sowmonit publicklie to the nixt day pro 1, under the paine of disobedience. Cristian Russell being warnit publicklie pro 1, called, compeired not: is ordeaned to be warnit to the nixt day pro 2.

John Patowne being wardit in the stepill of Dysert for suspition of witchcraft: ordeanes all parties that hes any dittayes to give in aganest him to be warnit out of the pulpett of Dysert to compeir befoir the sessioun and thair be hard.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . also compeired Sir Georg Bosuell, being acquaintit with Margaret Alexander hir deposition in fathering ane bairne upon him: he deneyes the samyne and says that she is not to be credited in respect she is not famouss and is unconstant. The brethren thinks that he ought to be confrontit with the woman, and thairfoir charges him to be confronted with hir otherwayes they will proceed aganest him. He declynes the Presbytrie as competent judges, and appeals to the Heigh Commission and promises to give it in wreatt. Cristian Russell being publicklie warnit, called, compeired not: is appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Compeired Cristian Murray: ordained to be confrontit with Robert Law.

Ordaines the ministers of Kirkcaldie to mak intimation out of thair pulpetts that if any person have anything to object aganest John Patown to compeire and give in thair dittayes. Helen Coffe to be warrnit to the nixt day. John Inglis in Wester Boglillie and Isobel Mill to be warrnit to the nixt day. The Presbytrie desyre Mr William Bell, minister at Auchtertule, and Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie, to purchass ane commission from the Bishope of Dunkeld for visiting of thair kirks that thair may be a maintenance appoyntit for scholes thair.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 27, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . Sir Georg Bosuell and Margaret Alexr being sowmonit to be confrontit togither, called, compeired not: appoynted to be sowmonit to the next day pro 2. Cristian Russell being sowmonit pro 3 under the paine of contumacie, called, compeired not: ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day to heir hirself convict of contumacie. Compeired Isobel Mill confesses and affirms hirself to have brought foorth ane bairne to John Inglis, who lay with hir once be

west his own hous upon the fields at the west end of the know, and that she got some meall from the midwyfe from him who bad hir deny the bairne to be John Inglis bairne and she should give her twentie punds. The said John Inglis also compeiring, denyed all. The brethren ordeanes him to purge himself be his great oath openlie.

KIRKCALDIE, *May* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Certain presumptions of witchcraft wer read aganest John Patowne. The Parson of Dysert delated one James Hillok for causeing baptise ane bairne of his dochter gotten in adulterie as if it had bein to hir husband.

DYSERT, *Maii* 11, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . James Hillok being sowmonit, called, compeired not: is to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro. 2. Janet Kay and John Patown being confronted togither, he denyes all hir allegationes.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 18.

The Parson of Dysert exercised. . . . . Sir Georg Bosuell being warnit, called, sent his excuse and craved a continuation in respect of his adoe at the term, whilk was grantit till a fyftein dayes after the term of Whitsonday. James Hillok being sowmonit, called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Mr John Balvaird craves the Presbytries testimonial being to transport himself to Orkenay, whilk is grantit and the clerk appoynted to wreatt the samyne. Question being proponit be the ministers of Kirkcaldie what sal be done with some women who had consulted with one Janet Layng ane wyse wyff, &c. Anser: mak their repentance. James Laws and the bairne brought foorth in Kennoquhie appoynted to be baptised. John Balvairds wyff craves support of the ministers in respect that she is a ministers dochter.

DYSERT, *May* 25, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent John Patown the Bischops advyss is, that he sall not be sufferit to come aither to Dysert or Kirkcaldie, bot remaine in the Peathhead. The brethren appoynts him to sit in the way above the Peathhead whereby men goe to St. Androis and ordeanes him nayther to come to Dysert nor Kirkcaldie and so dismisses him.

Compeired James Hillok . . . . . The brethren think it expedient that the Parson wreatt to the Presbytrie of Pearth anent that mater of the bapteising of his dochters bairne, and demitts him till that time. James Colin trelapse in fornicatioun resaved his last injunctions in sackclooth. Mr William Bell produced ane commissioun from the B. of Dunkeld for visiting the Kirks of Auchtertule and Leslie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Juni* 1,

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Forbes in the Parochine of Kingleslie adulterer with Margaret Gibson and resaveing his last injunctions referred to his minister.

DYSERT, *Junii* 8.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised without addition . . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . John Forbes, adulterer, resaved his last injunctions—Robert Spens to be dealt for.

Mr William Bell desyred that Mr David Martines assignation to Mr John Balvaird, and Mr John Balvairds discharge to him anent the kirkmanss myt be registrat, whilk was grantit, and the clerk appoyntit to insert the samyne in the Presbytrie book. Cristian Russell to be sowmonit to the nixt day under the paine of excommunicatioun pro 2.

DYSERT, *Junii*, 22.

The whilk day Mr. Robert Douglas exercised without addition . . . . .

Heir followes the registration of Mr William Bells assignation and discharge —

Be it kend to all men be thir present lettres me Mr David Martine, minister at the Kirk of Auchtertule, with speciall consent and assent of Kathren Boswell, my spous, for gud causes and considerations moveing us to have made and constitute and ordained and be the tenor heirof, makes, constitutes, nominates, and ordains Mr John Balvaird, master of the Gramer Schole of Auchtertule, our verie lawfull and undoubtit and irrevocable donator cessioner and assignay *in rem suam cum dispositione libera et potestate transferendi* in and to all and haill the sowme of two hundredth and twentie-two punds twelf shillings two pennies numerat money usuall in this realme of Scotland debursit be me upone the bigging and repairing of my manse and dwelling-place, and containit in ane subscryvit compt be me, whilk is justlie addebtit to me be the nixt entrand minister to serve the cure at the said Kirk of Auchtertule, conform to the order and Act of Parliament, &c.—Turneand and transferand the samyne sowmes and compt, with all kyndes interest, ryt, title and claim of ryt thairof, action, instance, power, privilege, propertie, and possession, als well petitor, als possessor, whilk wee our heirs, and ithers, our assiguayes, had, hes, or any manner of way, may claime, pretend, or have thairto or to ony part thairof in time comeing fra us, our heirs, exrs., and assignayes to and in speciall favour of the said Mr John Balvaird, his heirs, exrs., and assiguayes—Surrogand and substituand the said Mr John Balvaird and his foirsaids in our roome and place thairof, with full power to the said Mr John and his foirsaids to receive, and uptak the samyne and to give acquitances and discharges ane or mae upone the resaite thairof, whilk sal be als valid and sufficient as if we had maid, given, and subscrybit the samyne ourselfes, and if neid beis, to call and pursue for samyne befor or be the authoritie of whatsumever Judge or Judges, and to do all and sundrie other things anent the premissess whilkes we or ayther of us might have done ourselfes befoir the making of thir presents frielie, quietlie, weill, and in peace, bot impediment, obstacle, revocation, or againe calling whatsumever, and sall warrant thir, our

letters of assignation and to the said Mr John and his foresaids from our own proper fact and deid, alanerlie, all cavillation, fraud, guyle, and exceptions of the law quhatsoever secludit and sett asyde—And for the main securitie we ar content that thir presents be registrat in the books of Counsell or Session, Comissers books of Edr., St Androis or Dunkeld, or any aither Judges' books neidfull to have the strength of thair decreit, or any of thair decreits ordinar with all neidfull lettres and exells, to pass thairupon be ane single chairge of six dayes warneing, the horneing to pass the ane execution, but prejudice of the other and for registering thairof constitutes and nominates our verie lawfull procrs. conjunctlie and severalie, &c. In witness whereof we have subscryvit with our hands thir presents written be George Martine, notar publick in Burntisland at Auchtertule, the last day of April, the yeare of God, Jai vic, threttie sixt years, befoir thir witnesses—David Martine, lawfull sone to Robert Martine, in Kilgrastone, William Thomsone, our servand, and the said George Martine.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr David Martine,
Catherine Bosuall,
David Martine, *witness.*
George Martine, *witness.*

Be it kend to all men be thir present lettres me Mr John Balvaird in Auchtertule, cessioner and assignay in and to the sowmes of money efter consent laufullie maid and constitute be Umqll, Mr David Martine, sometyme minister at Auctertule, and Kathren Bosuell then his spous, as the lettres of assignation maid thairupon ordeaned to be registrat, etc. of the dait at Auchtertule the last day of April, the year of God, Jai vic, threttie-six years at mair lenght bears to have resaved realie and with effect lyke as be the tenor hereof I grant me to have resaved realie and with effect fra Mr William Bell, now minister at Auchtertule, successer to the said Umqll, Mr David the sowme of tuo hundreth twentie-tuo punds tuelfe shillings tuo pennies gud and usual money of this realme depursit be the said Umqll, Mr David upon the bigging and repaireing of the manss and ministers duelling place at the Kirk of Auchtertule, and contenit in the said Mr David his subscryvit compt maid thairupon of the daite at Auchtertule the fourth day of September 1635 years alloweit be the Presbytrie of Kircaldie and insert and registrat in the Presbytrie books thairof at Kirkcaldie the seventein day of August Jai vic, threttie-six years as the samyne bears and now addebtit be the said Mr William Bell to the said Umqll, Mr David Martine according to the Act of Parliament, etc. Off the whilk sowme of tuo hundreth tuentie-tuo punds tuelfe shillings tuo pennies money foirsaid conteinit in the said compt and assignation, I, the said Mr John Balvaird assignay foirsaid holds me weill content and compleitlie payit and satisfied, and grants the said registrat compt fulfiled to me be the said Mr William Bell in all poynts and thairfoir for me and for the said Umqll. Mr David Martine, his and my heirs exrs. assignayes and others whom it effeirs exoners, quyt claimers and simpli discharges the said Mr William Bell his heirs exrs. assignayes and others whom it effeirs of the samyne

for now and ever, and binds and obliges me and my foirsaids to warrand this my discharge to the said Mr William Bell and his foirsaids renunce and the benefite and exception of *non* numerat money aith of partie and other exceptions of the law quhatsumever and for the maire securitie I am content that thir presents be registrat in the books of Cownsell or Sessioun books of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie. Commissioners books of Edr, St Androis, or Dunkeld or any other judges books neidful to have the strength of thair decreit or any of thair decreits ordinar with all neidfull lettres and excells to pass thairupon the horneing to be upon ane simple charge of six days warneing, and for regrating heirof constitutes and nominats My verie aull. prors. conjunctlie and severalie, etc. In witness wherof I have subt. with my hand thir presents written be Georg Martine, Notar Publick, at Burntiland, the fourth day of March, the year of God, Jai vic, threttie-seven years befoir thir witnesses, Andro Bennet, Merchand, John White, officiar burgesses of Burntiland, and the said George Martine.

Sic subscribitur

Mr John Balvaird.
Andro Bennet, *witnes.*
Johne Quhyt, *witnes.*
George Martine, *witnes.*

Kirkcaldie, *Junii* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Ingles in Kingorne paroche: ordeaned to mak his publick repentance for his misbehaviour in Kingorne Kirk, and thairafter to purge himself be his great oath of the adultrouss bairne fathered upon him.

The whilk day also compeired Janet Lawsone for goeing to Janet Laying, and consulting with hir whilk she confessit, bot said she did it ignorantlie: ordeaned to mak hir publick repentance with the rest. Robert Spens remembrit, also the Burser of Theologie.

Dysert, *Julii* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . James Lord of Toctherell, his petition continewed to the nixt day. Robert Spens remembrit: the Burser of Theologie remembrit.

Kirkcaldie, *Julii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Gibson, adultress with John Forbes: resaved hir first injunctiouns. My Lord Torthirrell resaved some dallars.

Dysert, *Julii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . The patent for Ayre was read and help promeised.

Kirkcaldie, *Julii* 27, 1637.

The whilk day thair was no exercise, in respect that Mr David Andersone, who should have exercised, was sick and not able to travell. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Ordeanes William Cambell to be sowmonit to the nixt day to resave his first injunctiouns for adulterie. Mr John Barclay, minister at , shew to the brethren the act of the Synod wherein it was ordeaned that thair should some supplie be grantit and collectit for the relief of Mr David Ramsays wyff and bairnes, whilk the brethren considering promeiss to doe. Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister at Skunie, produced thair several compts and expenses, depursit be them upon thair manses, requyreing that they myt be registrat in the Presbytrie books, whilk was grantit to them, and the clerk to registrat the samyne whereof the tenors followes.

The compt of expenses bestowed be Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie, upon the repartion of the kirkmanss of Kennoquhie registrat as followes :—

In *primo* depursit be Mr Frederik Carmichael to John Miller, mason, and his man, in wages and in meat and drink, and morneing and afternoones drinks, 40 lbs.

Item for lyme to John Hutton and David Grundeston, 6 merks.

Item for half a hundreth nailed dealls to Patrik Beall, 24 lbs.

Item to the said Patrik for tries, 12 lbs.

Item to David Balfour and James Brusson, wright, 14 lbs.

Item to John Ramsay and John Flinker, for nauls and bands to the durrs and windoes, 8 lbs.

Item to Georg Cambell for casting the hous, 40 sh.

Item for saweing the lath and deals, 5 lbs.

Item to John Ramsay for naules, 20 sh.

Item for iron to be stanchers, 6 lbs.

Item for workeing of the said iron, 30 sh.

Item for thack and dovats, casting and theakeing of them, 12 lbs.

Item more for lyme to outred the chalmer, 5 merks.

Item to John Masterton, glassinwryt for glass, 8 merks.

Item a number of litil houses being put up, bot ar not comptit heir.

Item 3 hundreth merks depursit be the said Mr Frederik to Mr James Symeson, his praedecessr at the said kirk at his entrie, whilk is alreadie minute in the Presbytrie books.

Summa—351 lbs. 10 sh.

Whilk compt was seine and considered be me, Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister of the Kirk of Skunie, and allowed be me as just and true, according to the act of Presbytrie.

Sic subscribitur,

Mr R. CRANSTOWN.

Heir followes the compt of the expense depursit be Mr R. Cranstowne, Minister of Skunie, upon the kirk manss of the samyne, and reparation thairof.

In primus I, Mr Robert Cranstowne, payit at my entrie to the said kirk to the

relict of Mr Allan Lawmonth, my predecessor, and to Mr Walter Lawmonth, his sonne, the sowme of thrie hundreth and fyftie merks, whereof I resaved discharge.

Item, I bestowit upon the reparatioun thairof, ere it could be commodious for habitatioun—*In primus* to John Miller, masone, for building the east chalmer and ane stable, in wages and afternoones and morneing drinks, besydes the furnisheing of stones, 44 lbs. Item for lyme besydes what I gott given me, 11 lbs. Item to the said John for building the East wall of the barne, that was fallen down and for lyme and ane new durr thairto, 6 lbs. Item to Thomas Paterson, mason, for building the south wall or dyk of the cloise and tuo stairs one to the north chalmer at the hall durr and another at the east chalmer whilk stair itself was built be John Miller, bot the said Thomas walled it about with stones and lyme. James Bruson cleithed it above and batted it with iron, 24 lbs. Item for thrie scoir double tries or tuelfells to be beams to the walls, roofe, and binding of the parpan walls to the chalmers, 45 lbs.

Item for four scoir of deales to be flooring, parpan walls, durrs, and syleing to the east chalmer and durr to the stable at 48 lbs the hundredth, 32 lbs.

Item for ane new timber gate with the iron work and workmanship, 5 lbs.

Item for workmanship to the wrights, David Balfour and James Brysone, in flooreing, roofeing, syleing, the saids chalmers making thair end walls and durr to the stable and that ere they wer fullie compleit, 40 lbs.

Item for completeing of the samyne and caseining the windoes, 10 lbs.

Item to James Bruson for ten dayes work him alon, 6 lbs.

Item, for thair morineing and efternoones drinks, 54 sh.

Item for theaking of the hall, chalmer, and stable thacking dovats, 8 lbs.

Item for naules for flooring syleing, etc. and for windoe bands and slotts bought in Peathhead and St. Androis, 10 lbs.

Item for oaken timber to be cases to the windoes and some more iron work, 5 lbs.

Item to James Melvill, in Levin, for iron work in staunchers for the windoes, cruiks, bands, glass bands, and garron naules, with locks and keyes to gates and durrs, 16 lbs.

Item to the glassinwryt for fyve glass windoes, 6 lbs., 10 sh.

Item for building of new the hous be east the hall, 10 lbs.

All this besyd many other smaller items.

This compt sein and alloweit be Mr Frederik Carmichel, minister at Kennoquhie was fownd to be just and true.

Sic subscribitur,

Mr F. Carmichel

Summa of this compt is, 509 lbs, 9sh. 8d.

Dysert, *August* 10, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Andro Inglis and his brother who offers all reason in humilitie to thair partie whom they have offendit, the brethren thinks

they may be admitted to the communioun. Robert Spens, captive remembrit, also the Burser of Theologie.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Thomas Cok, younger, to be sowmonit to the nixt day for fighting upon the Sabbath day and striking of one David Cuper.

DYSERT, *September* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Janet Millers petition the Ministers present grants to give hir some help themselfs when she shall come to them. The process aganest Cristian Russell sein, hard, and allowed be the Presbyterie. Ordeanes Sir Georg Bosuell to be sowmonit to the nixt day to be confrontit with his partie, pro 3.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 14, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . William Cambell being sowmonit called, compeired not: ordeaned to be sowmonit pro 2.

Sir Georg Bosuell being sowmonit pro 3: called: compeired not. The Presbyterie appoynt Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Thomas Powtie to goe and conferr with him. The Burser of Theologie remembrit.

DYSERT, *September* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Burser remembrit, Ayr also.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Ayr remembrit. Burser of Theologie remembrit. Thomas Cook being sowmonit, called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *October* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Wemys: confessit adulterie with Margaret Paterson: resaved his first injunctiouns.

Ayre and the Burser of Theologie remembrit.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Copies of the patent for Ayr delyverit. Burser of Theologie remembrit. The brethren ar content and willing to subscryve ane supplicatioun aganest the Service book.

DYSERT, *November* 2.

The whilk day Mr Frederik Carmichel exercised. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Process grantit to David Bennett aganest John Symeson in Dysert; the said John Symeson to be sowmonit to the nixt day. The

Presbytrie appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Smith to deale further with Sir Georg Bosuell to compeir and be confrontit with his partie, and ordeanes him to be sowmonit to this day fyftein dayes.

DYSERT, *November* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill declaired that he had spoken with Sir Georg Bosuell who promised to compeir upon adverteisment. The Presbytrie appoynts him to be sowmonit to compeir this day fyftein dayes, and Mr John Smith to speak with him yet befoir the said day. Compeired James Wemys desyreing that his dayes of repentaunce may be shortened. The brethren being informed of his repentaunce desyres him to return this day fyftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Margaret Gibson adultress, compeired: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Mr Robert Cunningham being sent from the Bailies of Kingorne craved help of the Presbytrie in respect of thair ministers inhabilitie having gotten ane fall. The brethren agrees to help them *per vices*, and Kirkcaldie to begin. Mr John Chalmer, younger, produced ane compt of his fathers depursements upon his Manss desyreing the samyne to be registrat in the book of the Presbytrie. They appoynt the said compt to be sein and considered, and thairafter the clerk to insert the samyne in the book.

DYSERT, *December* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Wemys, adulterer, who resaved his last injunctiouns. Sir Georg Bosuell not compeiring, to be proeeeded aganest publicklie.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 14, 1637.

The whilk day . . . . . Sir Georg Bosuell sent his excuse of absence; accepted. Contribution for Ayr remembrit.

DYSERT, *December* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . David Tullus petition referred to a more frequent meiting.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Sir Georg Bosuell who is content to be confrontit with Margaret Alexander with whom he is slandrit etc. Continewed to the nixt convenient day of meiting at whilk time he is to be advertysed. A letter being brought from the Minister of Portpatrik for supplie to the harborie the brethren present promeises to be myndful of it. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Thomas Melvill to visite Mr John Chalmers compt of his depursements upon his Manss, and to report thair anser that it may be registrat. Compeired Janet Law who confessit adulterie with William Cambell, who resaved

hir first injunctiouns upon hir confessioun. He is appoyntit to be sowmonit when he can be apprehendit. Mr Robert Douglas reportit his diligence in Edr anent his commissioun for the Presbytrie, whilk being hard was verie weill acceptit and allowed.

DYSERT, *Januari* 4, 1638.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect these who should have exercised was not advertysed whilk was the fault of the briev of advertysement.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator sent ane letter to the brethren sheweing that the Archbishop had written to him to try Mr Georg Gilespie for the Kirk of Wemyss bot becaus he would doe nothing in that kynd be himself without thair knowledge and concurrence, he adveysed the brethren to praescryve ane test to him to teache the nixt Thursday in Kirkcaldie and he should be present, God willing, to heir him, whereupon they praescryvit to him ane text, viz., 2 Thess. 2, 13, to handel the nixt Thursday becaus his edict could suffer no longer delay.

Elspett Borthwik spous to Umqll. Patrik Carmichael, minister at Aberdour craveing some help they promeise hir, etc.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 18.

The whilk day Mr George Gillespie preached upon the text praescryvit to him viz. 2 Thess. 2. 13., wherein he gave the brethren full contentment so that thai wer content to signifie thair approbatioun of him be thair testimonial whilk they appoyntit the Clerk to writt to him and subscryve in thair names and to writt back anser to the Moderator . . . . .

Compeired Isobell Miller quadrilapse in fornicatioun : ordained to satisfie as ane adultress who resaved hir first injunctions. William Cambell being sowmonit, called, compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 3.

> This underwritten is the copy of the supplicatioun and complaint presented in our names to the Lords of Secrete Counsell the 18 day of October 1637 years and becaus no particular persons complainers ar named and all who have interest in the mater of greivances compleined therein may not attend bot must appoynt some few of thair number to awaite thair answer.—Thairfoir lest the Lords reject the supplicatioun and complaint for the want of the supplicants and compleiners names—Wee have subscryvit this to be shawen to the Lords if they shall happen to call for the samyne.

My Lords of Secrete Counsell unto your Lordships humblie meins and shows we under subscryvers, Noblemen Barrons, Burgess, Ministers and Cowmons—That whereas we wer in all humilitie and quyet maner attending a gratious anser of our former supplicatiouns aganest the Service Book imposed upon us and reddie to shew the great inconveniences which upon the introduction thairof must ensue, we ar without any knowen desert farr by our expectatioun supprysed and charged

by open proclamatioun to depart of the towne within 24 hours thairafter under the paine of rebellion, by which peremptorie and unlawfull charge our fears of a more summar and strick course of proceeding in thir maters is augmented, and the course of our supplicatiouns interupted—Wherefoir we ar constrained out of the deip greifs of our harts humblie to remonstrate that where the Archbishopes and Bishopes of this realme being intrusted by his Majestie with the Government of the affairs of the Kirk of Scotland have drawen up and sett foorth or caused to be drawen up and sett foorth and enjoined upon the subjects tuo books in the one whereof called the Book of Cowmon Prayer not onlie ar sewn the seids of divers superstitious idolatrie and falss doctrin contrair to the true regligion established in this realme by divers acts of Parliament, but also the Service Book of England is so abused, especiallie in the mater of the communioun by additions, substractions, interchangeing of words and sentences, falsifieing of tytles and misplaceing of collects to the disadvantage of Reformation as the Romishe Mass is in the maine and substantial poynts made up thairin (as we offer to instruct in tyme and place convenient) close contrar unto and for rauverseing of the gracious intentioun of the blessed reformers of religion in England. In the other book called Canons, and Constitutiouns for the government of the Kirk of Scotland they have ordeaned that whosever sall affirm that the forme of worshipp conteined in the Canons, Book of Prayer and administratioun of the sacraments (whereof heirtofoir and now most justlie we complein) doeth contein anything repugnent to the scripturs or ar corrupt superstitious or unlaufull in the service and worschipp of God salbe excommunicated and not to be restored bot by the Bishope of the place or Archbishope of the province after thair repentance and publick revocation of this his wicked error besydes ane hundreth Canons moe many of them tending to the reviveing and fostereing of abolished superstitions and errors and to the overthrow of our Church discipline established by acts of Parliament opening a doore for what further innovations of religion they please to mak, and stopping the way which law befoir did allow unto us for suppressing of errour and superstition and ordineing that wherein any of the Canons thair is no penaltie expresslie set downe the punishment sallbe arbitrarie as the Bishope sall think fittest al which Canons wer niver sein and allowed in a General Assemblie bot ar imposed contrar to order of law appoynit in this Kingdome for the establishing of maters ecclesiastick unto which tuo books the foirsaid Prelats have under trust procured his Majestys Ryall hand and letters patents for pressing the same upon us his loyal subjects and yit ar they the contrivers and devysers of the same as doeth cleirlie appear be the frontispice of the book of Commown Prayer and ar begunn to urge the acceptance of the same not onlie by injunctions given in Provincial Assemblies bot also by open proclamation and charges of horneing whereby we are driven in such straits as we must aither by process of excommunicatioun and horneing suffer the ruine of estates and fortunes or elss by breach of our covenant with God and foirsaikeing the way of true religion fall under the wrath of God which unto us is more grevious than death—Wherefoir we being persuadit that these thair proeeidings ar contrair to our Gracious Soveran, his pious intention, who out of his zeale and princlie caire of the perservation of

true religion established in this his auncient Kingdome hath ratified the same in his Hienes Parliament in the year of God 1633, and so his Majestie to be heighlie wronged be the said Prelats who have so farr abused thair credit with so good a King having insnaired his subjects rent our Kirk undrmyne religion in doctrine sacraments and disciplin made discontent betwixt the King and his subjects and discord betwixt subject and subject contrar to several acts of Parliament—Doe out of bunden dutie to God our King and native Countrie complein of the foirsaids prelats Humblie craveing that this mater may be put to tryell and these our parties taken order with according to the laws of the Realme and they be not suffered to sit any more as our judges until this caus be tryed and decydit according to justice, and if this sall seime ane mater of hiegher importance then your Lordships will condescend unto befoir his Majestie be acquainted thairwith—then we humblie supplicate that this our grievance and complaint may be fullie represented to his Majestie that from the influence of his gracious government and justice thir wrangs maybe redressed and we have the happiness to injoy the religion as it hath bein reformed in this Land.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 25.

The whilk day . . . William Cambell being sommonit pro 3, called : compeired not : to be proceided aganest be publick citations.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 1, 1638.

The whilk day Mr James Miller exercised . . .

DYSERT, *Februari* 8.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown exercised . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 15.

The whilk day . . . Mr James Miller compleining upon William Tenent for slandering him the brethren ordaines the said William to be sowmonit to the nixt day when the said Mr James is to pursue him be claime.

DYSERT, *March* 1.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect the Ministers wer over the water.

DYSERT, *March* 8.

The whilk day thair was no exercise, in respect he that should have exercised was over the water. Presents the said day the Minister of Kirkcaldie, Parson of Dysert, Ministers of Kinglessie, Kennoquhie, Skunie. The whilk day the brethren declaired that it was agreed be the ministers meiting at Edr, that the Covenant should be renewit in all parts of Kingdome where it could convenientlie be done, and thairfoir appoynt intimatioun heirof to be maid the nixt Sabbath for that effect that the people of all thair congregatiouns be prepared to renew thair said

Covenant with God, upon the Sabbath following the 25 day of this instant; as also they prepare themselfs to keip ane solum fast the said day; also appoynts the clerk to advertyse the brethren who ar absent to be present the nixt day. The brethren ar to advyse anent the chuseing of a Moderator aganest the nixt day. William Tenent being sowmonit: called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *March* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the reneweing of the Covenant the brethren thinks expedient that it be done onlie in thair particular congregatiouns and that intimatioun be maid thairof the nixt Sabbath, and the Covenant read, and the people exhortit to prepare themselfs for reneweing of the samyne the nixt Sabbath day thairafter, the 25 day of March, and they prepare themselfs also to keip solemne fast the said day, and thairafter the Covenant be subscryvit. Compeired William Tenant, craved a copy of Mr James Millers claime, whilk was granted to him. The brethren appoynts Mr Mungo Law, thair commissioner, to attend in Edinburt the nixt weik. They appoynt Mr Frederik Carmichel, commissioner for St Androis, to attend the Assemblie, and to use declinator if neidbes. The same day also anent the chuseing of a Moderator, they mak chose of Doctor John Michelson, the Parson of Dysert, and Mr James Symeson Minister of Kirkcaldie, whom they put in lite who being removed, the brethren be pluralitie of voits, chooses Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert, to be thair Moderator for half a year to come. John Inglis in the Paroche of Kingorne to be sowmonit the nixt day to give his oath for purging of himself of the adulterie alledgit aganest him.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 22.

The whilk day . . . The whole brethren present, subscryvit to the Covenant except Doctor John Michaelson who being desyred and requested to subscryve with the rest refused plainlie and removed himself and went away. The Presbytrie having considered of the mater of controversie betwixt Mr James Miller and William Tenent thinks that the said William Tenent has done great wrong to the said Mr James and that the said Wm has not given anser to Mr James his complaint. The Presbytrie hes thought meit that the mater be taken away friendlie whereunto William Tenent agreed and nominat for him to that effect—Mr Frederick Carmichel and Mr Mungo Law and the said Mr James nominat for him Mr John Smith and Mr Robert Cranstowne to whom both parties submits themselfs: Mr Thomas Bigger Scrib for this purpose. John Ingles being warnit, called, compeired not, is to be warnit to the nixt day pro 2.

DYSERT, *March* 29 1638.

The whilk day . . . Mr John Chalmer, elder be his letter craved ane exemption from exerciseing ordinarlie in respect of his weakness and infirmitie to travell whilk was grantit. The Covenant was renewit the last Sabbath in all the Kirks of this Presbytrie except in Burntiland and Markinche whose Ministers refuses

and in the Kirk of Wemyss whose Minister is not yet placed. John Lyles in Baglillie in the paroche of Kingorne being sowmonit: called, compeired not, is thairfoir ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3.

Compeired Isobel Mill adultress with the said John and resaved hir last injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 5.

The whilk day . . . Compeired John Lyles in Baglillie who being yit dealt with to confess his adultrie with Isobel Mill denyes the same: appoyntit to purge himself be his great oath when he salbe requyred who promeises to doe the samyne.

The said Janet Law with William Cambells partie compeiring to resave hir last injunctions continewed yit some dayes.

DYSERT, *April* 12.

The whilk day . . . The minister and gentlemen of the parosh of Markinche viz, Babirnie, younger, Robert Lundie, Bichtie and others commissioners for the rest of the gentlemen of the said paroshe: the saids gentlemen continewed to the nixt day.

Compeired Isobel Miller trilapse in fornication: remittit to the Ministers of Kirkcaldie.

William Cambell was sowmonit the last Sabbath publicklie out of the pulpett of Kirkcaldie to compeire befoir the Presbytrie under the paine of contumacie pro 1, who not compeiring, is ordained to be proceedit aganest.

Compeirit James Weyms of Caskyberryen commissioner from the Erle of Weyms, Andro and William Laveroks, Andro and William Browns commissioners from the said Erle of Weyms and remanent Elders and parochiners humblie supplicating the Presbytrie to ordaine and admitt Mr Georg Gillespie for thair Minister who having abyden all his tryells was approven etc. Anser thairto continewed to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the supplicatioun of the commissioners from the Erle and parochine of Wemyss the haill brethren all in one voice (except Doctor Lawmonth) thought thair sute both lawfull and expedient and thairfoir his ordinatioun and admissioun to be this day eight dayes the 26 of this instant and appoyntit Mr Robert Douglas to preache thair the said day instead of his exercise. Collonell Leslie, the Lairds of Balbirnie, Kirkfother, Bandone, &c, commissioners for the paroche of Markinche requyreing againe that they may have the Confessioun of Faith read to them and thair covenant, with God renewed, thair minister plainelie refuseing the samyne, the brethren after dealeing with Doctor Lawmonth appoynt Mrs James Smyth and Mr Robert Douglas to deale farther with him.

The brethren appoynts Mr James Smyeson and Mr Robert Douglas to meitt at the Kirk of Kinglessie and thair to deale with Doctor Andro Lawmonth and to solve

his dowts that he may goe fordward with the rest of the brethren to renew the covenant with his parochiners otherwayes they will appoynt some of thair number to goe to Markinche to satisfie the desyre of the parochiners, and to declaire thair diligence next day. Mr John Chalmer, elder, desyred of the brethren that they wold ordaine and admitt Mr John Chalmer yor. his sonne fellowhelper to him in his ministrie. The brethren continews thair answer till they know the will of the parochiners thairanent. The Laird of Arnitt compeiring direct from the noblemen and commissioners for the countie at Edr to deale anent tryell for furnishing, etc. The brethren promeises diligence thairanent. William Cambell being sowmonit out of the pulpett of Kirkcaldie to compeire befoir the Presbytrie under the paine of contumacie pro 2. compeired not : to be proceedit aganest.

Kirktowne of Weyms, *April* 26.

The whilk day Mr Robert Douglas preached upon the 1 Epistle of Peter v. 2, 3, 4, whereafter the consent of the parochiners being requyred and Master Georg Gillespie demandit of certaine questions proponed to him be the moderator and his oath of alegance to the Kings Majestie being taine, the said Mr Georg was admittit and ordained minister of the Kirk of Weyms be imposition of hands with prayer to God and singing of psalmes and resaved be the elders and parochiners who both promeised mutuall duties to others.

Compeired John Erle of Weyms, James Colville of Babedie, Patrik Murray of Balgregie, James Weyms of Muirton, James Bedsone and James Tode all parochiners and heretors of the parochine of Auchterdirran, commissioners from the rest of the heretors elders and deacons of the kirk and parochiners of Auchterdirran, and be thair humble supplicatioun requyred that they might have Mr John Chalmer yor. ordained and admitted fellowhelper to his infirm and aged father in the ministrie whereto the brethren grantit and appoyntit the said Mr John to handel the Cowmonhead *De Purgatorio* the nixt day for his tryell.

The whilk day also Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Mungo Law reportit that they went to Kinglessie and reasoned with Doctor Andro Lawmonth and dealt with him to satisfie his parochiners in reneweing of the covenant with God as the rest of the brethren had done, bot could no wayes prevaill with him. The brethren appoynts Mr Mungo Law to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath and preache thair and to reid the Confession of Faith to the people and to prepare them aganest the nixt Sabbath thairafter for reneweing of the covenant with God. William Rigg of Atherine compeireing commissioner direct from the commissioners, etc. anent furnishing, the brethren promeise diligence. Compeired Alexander Bruce and Walter Duncan commissioners from Kingorne, desyreing the Presbytrie to deal with the Laird of Balmowto and Sir John Scott of Scotstarvet anent the seat in the Kirk of Kingorne perteyneing to the Umqll. Laird of Piteadie.

They appoynt Mr Frederik Carmichel and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe to them and deale with them.

Item, the said tuo Commissioners desyred that the Presbytrie wold wreatt to Mr Robert Blair to come to thair towne and preache to them that thai might heir him, and agree with them to be fellowhelper to them with thair Minister, who also desyred the samyne of the brethren. The brether appoynts the clerk to writt to the said Mr Robert Blair to that effect, whilk he did. The Presbytrie appoints everie brother to bring thair gentlemen heritors with them, this day fyftein dayes, to the Presbytrie for subscriving of the provincial covenant. John Cowan in Dysert appoyntit to purge himself of the slander of adulterie alledgit upon him be his great oath. William Cambell was sowmonit out of the pulpett the last Sabbath pro 3.

DYSERT, *Maii* 3.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, your. handled the Cowmonehead, *De Purgitorio* who had for text, Revel 14, 13, whereinto he gave the brethren satisfactioun who also gave in *Theses* to be dispute the nixt day. The Presbytrie ar satisfied with that whilk they have hard of the said Mr John Chalmer, and ar content to proceid with his ordinatioun and appoynts the clerk to writt ane edict to be servit in the kirk of Auchterdirran upon Sunday nixt, that if thair be any that hes anything to object aganest the said Mr John, aither in his doctrine, or lyfe and conversatioun, they may compeire at the said kirk of Auchterdirran, upon the 17 day of Maii, and thair be hard, and in the meantime they ordain the said Mr John to teache popular doctrin the nixt day in Kirkcaldie, and assygnes him for text, John 5, 24. Mr Georg Murray desyreing to pass upon the publick exercise, they give him for text, Rom 5, to handel privatlie.

The Laird of Kyninmonth be his tickit declaired his consent to Mr John Chalmers admission fellowhelper to his father, as also he had spoken the Laird of Balmowto who is patron, who also gave his consent. Mr Mungo Law declaired that he went to Markinche as he was appoyntit, and read the Confessioun of Faith exhorting them to prepare themselfs aganest the nixt Sabbath for reneweing of thair covenant, who preached the foirnoone text, 2 Chron, 15, 7, 8, 9, and Mr John Blyth preached afternoone. Mr John Smith also reportit that he went to Burntiland as he was appoyntit the last day, upon the humble sute of Capteain Watsone and Robert Richardsone commissioners, direct from Burntiland to that effect, who preached thair upon Wednisday text, 2 Cor, 6, 17, 18, and renewed the covenant thair. Mr Robert Douglas appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath, and preache and caus the people to renew thair Covenant with God. Mr Robert Cranstowne reportit that he went to Edr and attendit as he was appoyntit. Appoynts the Minister of Kirkcaldie to mary James Pare. Mr Robert Douglas reportit that he went to Balmowto and dealt anent the seatt in Kingorne kirk, and shew that it was submittit. Andro Johnston compeiring, desyred that Kathren Archbalds bairne alias Beissie, myt be baptised which he is to present, whilk was grantit. The whilk day compeired Janet Law, adultress with William Cambell, who resaved hir last injunctiouns. The gentlemen heritors of the Presbytrie to be present the nixt day in Kirkcaldie for subscriveing of the provincial covenant. . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 10.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer, your. preached as he was appoyntit, John 5, 24, wherein he gave the brethren contentment so that they ar to proceid to his ordinatioun as fellowhelper to his father this day eight dayes. Appoynt Mr William Nairn to preache thair the said day. Doctor John Michaelson is to exercise this day fyftein dayes. Mr William Bell to add Text Jo 15. Mr Robert Douglas declaired that he went to Markinche the last Sabbath as he was appoyntit and preached thair Text befoirnoone Es 10, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and renewit the covenant then and afternoone. The Laird of Arnet compeireing, renewit his commissioun anent furnishing, etc.

AUCHTERDIRRAN, *Maii* 17.

The whilk day Mr William Nairn Moderator, preached text, John 21, 16, 17. Mr John Chalmer, your. after prayer to God, being asked, divers questiouns according to the order set downe befoire the Psalme Book, and takeing his oath of alegeance to his Matie with consent of the whole parochiners, was admittit fellowhelper to his father in the ministrie of the kirk of Auchterdirran. The Presbytrie grants to give to Mr George Gillespie ane act of his admissioun whilk they appoynt the clerk to writt. . . .

The whilk day also Mr John Chalmer, your, produced tuo testimonials one direct from the Old Laird of Balmowto, the other from the Young Laird declaireing thair consents to the said Mr Johns admissioun and ordinatioun as fellowhelper to his father in the ministrie at the kirk at Auchterdirran.

William Cambell, masone, being thryse publicklie sowmonit out of the pulpett of Kirkcaldie to compeire befoir the Presbyterie to answer for tuo adulteries under the paine of contumacie compeired not and thairfoir is decernit contumacious and to be proceedit aganest with excommunicatioun. James Scrimgeor of Wester Gartmoir compleaneing upon Robert Meldrum in Souther Limfinnance and Janet Thomson his spouse for slandering him and cursing him &c. grants to give him process to caus sowmond them. Mr David Anderson declaired that thair was some in his paroche who had gone in gyseing: Ordeaned to caus sowmon them to compeire befoir the Presbytrie. Compeired Georg Falkland in the Parochine of Leslie quadrelapse in fornicatioun: resaved his last injunctiouns. Doctor John Michaelsone sent his excuse sheweing that he could not exercise at this time for reasonable caus. Acceptit. Mr William Bell is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, Mr Thomas Melvill to add text John 16, 5. Mr Robert Douglas reportit that he went to Markinche etc. The Laird of Arnet younger, in name of his father desyred the brethren that they would be cairfull anent provisioun, etc.

Follows the act anent Mr Georg Gillespies admissioun at Easter Wemys, April 26, 1638.

The whilk day, the Presbyterie being met in the Kirk of Weyms upon occasion of a supplicatioun presented to them by the parochiners of the said kirk wherin they

desyred that for as much as Mr Georg Gillespie had bein presented be the Provost, Bailies, and Towne Counsell of Edinburgh to the said Kirk of Weyms and local steipend thairof had bein recommended be the Arch. B. of St. Androis to be tryed be the Presbytrie and after tryell approven be the Presbyterie as qualified for the ministrie, ane edict also being grantit be the said Arch. Bischope whilk was duelie served and returned againe indorsat notwithstanding the Arch. B. had refused both by word and wreate ever to admitt the said Georg unless he gave ane oath and subscriptioun which was not warrantable be any law of this kirk or kingdome and withall forasmuch as the paroche has susteined great prejudice by wanting ane actual minister so long the Presbytrie wold thairfoir be pleased to admitt the said Mr Georg to the ministrie of the said kirk.

Whilk supplicatioun being considered and the premisses found all true and evident the Presbytrie having the power of ordinatioun and admissioun *jure divino* being also after the Reformation invested therewith *jure nostro parliamentairo* and niver deprived of the same by any posterior act aither of Parliament or General Assemblie hath admitted and ordeaned the said Mr Georg Gillespie into the ministrie of the said Kirk according to the forme of admissioun set downe befoir the Psalm Book by taking his oath of aledguance to his Matie and giving to him impositioun of hands with full powers to preache the word, minister the sacraments, exercise kirk discipline, and do all the offices of a compleit minister thair all which to be of veritie we testifie by these presents written be our clerk of Presbyterie at our command and subscryvit with our hands.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . The Moderator and Mr Mungo Law declaired that they went to the Weyms and designit Mr George Gilespie his gleib and manss. Janet Thomson being sowmonit anent James Scrimgeors complaint, called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Mr Georg Murray handled the place of scriptur asignit to him with approbatioun. The brethren give him ane other text, viz., Colloss. 3, 1.

DYSERT, *Julii.* 5.

The whilk day Mr Harie Wilkie exercised without addition. . . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Marion Grig apprehendit and reteyned in ward for certaine appeirances of witchcraft: to be preceided aganest, etc.

Mr John Smith taks upon him to exercise the nixt day, Mr Frederik appoyntit to add. Ordeans the brethren to mak intimation of ane fast to be keipit the tuo last Sabbaths of this month, intimation thairof to be maid the nixt Sabbath. Cristian Wilsone and hir dochters to be present the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . adverteisement was maid the last Sabbath anent the fast to be keipit the nixt tuo Sabbaths. Compeired Cristian Wilson and

Margaret Bannatyne, hir eldest dochter, anent some alledgit poynts of witchcraft practised be hir: denyed the samyne: sowmonit *apud acta* to be present in Dysert the nixt day. Intimation to be maid in all pulpetts anent Marion Grig who is deteined in Dysert for witchcraft. Mr Georg handled the place of Scripture asignit to him with approbation. Asignes further the Cowmonhead *De Justificatione* to handle. Ordeanes the Moderator and Mr James Symeson to goe over the water the nixt weik and attend in Edr.

DYSERT, *Julii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Scrimgeor and Mr John Chalmer appoyntit to attend at Edr the nixt weik. Captaine Andro Watson, commissioner for the towne of Burntiland desyred of the brethren that they wold appoynt tuo of thair number to come to Burntiland and celebrat the communion to them in respect thair owne minister will not subseryve the Covenant or celebrat the communion to them. Continews the anser till the nixt day. Cristian Wilson and hir dochters compeiring ar sowmonit *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day in respect the witness hes not compeired.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . also compeired Captaine Andro Watson, Georg Gairdens, Robert Richardson, Alexr. Dick, commissioners from Burntiland, reneweing thair former petition for some brethren to celebrat the communion to them. Appoynts Mrs Mungo Law and Robert Cranstowne for that effect—Further they requyred that in respect of thair ministers age and weakness they try Mr William Levingstowne anent his qualification for the ministrie, and that finding him able they wold ordean him fellowhelper to thair minister. Being demandit if they have commission from the gentlemen of the paroche, ansers they have thair consent. The brethren ansers they cannot proceid in that mater until they see ane supplication in writt subscryvit be the towne and paroche, and untill they have the advyce of the meiting in Edr. Desyres the clerk to causs sowmone Mr Andro Michaelson to the nixt day to heir himself inhibite to marry persons or baptise bairnes heirefter in respect he is no ordinar minister.

Compeired Margt Dougall, witness in the mater concerning Cristian Wilson, deponed she hard the woman that was in Cristian Wilsons house say to hir youngest dochter, Put in that in your bodies and sew it in and yee sall niver want, etc. Isobell Anderson and the rest of the witnesses continewed to this day fyftein dayes. Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Frederik Carmichael appoyntit to goe over and attend in Edr the nixt weik.

DYSERT, *August* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . it is appoyntit that absents be censured hereafter and demandit the reason of thair absence, etc..

Georg Gairdens and Robert Richardson, commissioners from Burntiland, bringing with them ane supplication subscryvit be the honest men of the town of Burntiland, and James Robertson, parochiner thair desyreing that they might have

Mr William Levingstone tryed to the intent being found qualified, he might be fellowhelper to thair minister, etc. The brethren continews thair anser to thair supplication till they speak with Doctor John Michaelson themselfes. Mr Andro Michaelson being present the brethren desyre him to desist from marrying any persons or baptising of children hereafter as also from preaching in Burntiland ordinarlie otherwayes they will ordean him to desist.

Compeired Marion Grig in Weyms challengit upon sundrie poynts of witchcraft: deyned all.

Compeired William Mershal and Janet Reidie his spous, John Reidie, James Roger, Marion Gay, in Pethead, witnesses in the said mater. All admittit and sworn, deponed as follows: William Mershal deponed that he being in Dysert, and his wyff at home not weill (being great with child) the said Marion come to his house and craved 4sh 6d, whilk was owand to hir, till she angred hir, and when she went foorth she cursed hir the said Janet, and immediatelie she becom extreme sick and caused send for hir againe and paid hir the 4sh 6d and sate downe upon hir kneis and prayed hir to forgive hir, and she forgave hir and prayed God to forgive hir, and thairafter she being delyverit of ane bairne and not being as other women caused send for hir, and the said William went and brought hir, and she causit them to seik hir health for Gods saik, and she said God send hir health thryse, and she mended everie day thairafter—whilk also the said Janet Reidie deponed to be of veritie, and said she mumbled when she ged down the stair. The whilk day also James Rodger and his spouse deponed that they being aughtand to hir 4sh 6d she come to thair house and craved them veri hardlie for it and stood up at the fire long, and they bid hir goe away bot she wold not leave, and that same nyt he took ane sicknes and would not lye in the bedd bot becom madd and the fit took him becours, and he could not byd it, and his speache went from him and he thought his breathe was goeing away, and he said Yon theife hes done me evil and for Gods saik goe to hir, and his wyff went to hir and sought his helth from hir, for Gods saik, thryse, and brought hir with hir, and the paine being aff him he besought hir for Gods saik to help him and ease him of his paine, and she went home and come againe and held ane cloath ay chapine hir nose, and come and took him be the hand, and when he told hir that his paine was in his head and his face she chapit ay his face with the clout.

The brethren thinks meitt that she be put in the stocks.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Georg Gardens, Andro Watson, Rob Richardsone, commissioners from Burntiland, craveing a visitatioun for thair kirk whilk was thought meitt be the brethren of the meitting in Edinburt. The brethren ar content to visit the Kirk of Burntiland this day eight dayes the 6 of the nixt month of September, and appoyntit the Moderator to preache thair for his exercise and the clerk to send them ane edict to be servit. Mr Patrik Gilespie desyred to enter upon thair exercise: they appoynt to him for text, Rom 12, 1, to

handel privatelie. Mr Rob Tod handled the place of scriptur assignit to him with approbatioun. They ar content to admitt him upon the publick exercise.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Burntiland halden within the Paroche Kirk of the said burgh upon the sixt day of September be the brethren of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie viz, Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert, Moderator. . . . Nane being absent bot Doctor Andro Lawmonth and David Andersone who was sick. The whilk day after sermon preached be the Moderator upon Rom 12, 9, and incalling upon the name of God, compeired the Bailies and divers honest men of the towne of Burntiland (after that the edict was returned indorsat be Georg Martin towne clerk), desyreing that the brethren wold appoynt to them ane fellowhelper to thair aged and infirm Pastor in thair Ministrie, and proponed Mr William Levingstone to that effect, desyreing that he myt be tryed in his literatur and qualificatioun that being found meit he myt be admitted to whom Doctor Michelson opposed himself and would nowayes consent. Compeired also James Melvill of Halhill, Gilbert Robertsone and Mr James Phinn heretors for the landward paroche who declaired that they thought it both expedient and necessar that thair should be ane fellow-helper appoyntit for them, bot wold in no condition joyne with the towne in thair supplicatioun for the foirsaid Mr William. They requestit the brethren to provyde them with som grave learnit man and they wold contribute with the towne for his steipend, bot seing it is ane verie considerable towne they wold have it weill plantit. Mr Robert Cranstowne delyverit the print reasons for the Assemblie and also some instructions from Edr.

DYSERT *September* 16, 1638.

The whilk day . . . . . The Erle of Rothess and Mr Robert Douglas shew that it was thought meitt be the meitting at Cuper, ruleing elders sould sit with the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie thinks expedient that thair commissioners for the General Assemblie be chosen, and thairfoir appoynts Monday com eight dayes the 24th of this instant, for that effect. The whole brethren of the Presbytrie with the ruleing elders underwritten viz, the Earles of Rothess and Weyms, Lairds of Arnett, Auchmowtie, Durie, Fynmonth, Elder, Blaikburn, Halyairds, Babeadie, and James Pitcairne of Treatone considering the danger that may eschew upon division or forstalling of voits and thairfoir by lifting up of thair hands they solemnelie sweare be the Lord that they sall not divyd nor foirstale thair voyces nor do nor say anything that may be prejudicial to a free General Assemblie, naither for preferment for promeises nor money nor any other way whatsoever, as they sal anser to God. It is thought meitt that if any be absent the day of election of the commissioners that they sall aither wreate thair minds or declair the samyne to thair ministers. Georg Gairdens, Andro Watsone, Robert Richardsone commissioners from Burntiland compeiring, desyred that Mr Wm Levingstone myt be tryed and thairafter admitted. The Presbytrie ansers they cannot, in respect the gentlemen heretors of the paroche ar not content, as also that place requyres ane grave and experimentit man, etc.

They appoynt Mr Mungo Law to goe to Burntiland the nixt Sabbath to preache thair. The whilk day also the Laird of Auchmowtie of the Parochine of Markinche, desyred that they myt have some of the brethren appoyntit to celebrat the communion to them. Anser continewed till another meiting and Doctor Andro Lawmonth minister at Markinche, appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day for not comeing to the Presbytrie.

KIRKALDIE, *September* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . The lairds of Bogie and Fingask and John Williamson, Bailie of Kirkcaldie, ruleing elders being present gave thair oaths not to foirstall thair voyces to the General Assemblie. Margt Grig who is deteyned in the steiple of Dysert for suspicion of witchcraft seing nothing meriting death can be as yit proven aganest hir to be brought befoir the pulpett and thairafter dismissed. Mr Patrick Gilespie handeled the place of Scriptur assignit to him, viz., Rom 12, 1, with approbatioun. Mr William Bell is appoyntit to preach in Burntiland the nixt Sabbath and so to follow heirafter in order as the Presbytrie keips thair exercise. Doctor Lawmonth sent ane letter shewing that he was sowmonit to compeir befoir the Presbytrie bot dorst not haisard for daunger. The brethren thinks it not ane relevant excuse and thairfoir ordeanes him to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 24, 1638.

The whilk day after sermon preached be Mr Robert Douglas upon the tuo last verses of 122 psalm and incalling of the name of God the whole brethren being present except the tuo doctors and Mr David Anderson (who sent his excuse of sickness) and gentlemen elders, the Lairds of Auchmowtie, Halyairds, Bogie, Finmonth, Fyngask, Balbeadie, Orrock, Vicargrange, etc., commissioners from thair several paroches, viz., Auchmowtie from Markinche, Halyairds from Auchtertule, Bogie for Kirkcaldie, Finmonth from Kinglessie, Fingask from Skunnie, Balbeadie for Auchterdirran, Orrock for Burntiland, Viccarsgraing from Kingorne, Ornett for Portmook, the Erle of Rothess for Lesslie, the Erle of Weyms for Weyms, and for Dysert Blaikburn, for Kennoquhie James Pitcairne of Treatone. The Erles of Rothess and Weyms and the Laird of Durie being absent sent thair minds and voyces with thair minister and also the Laird of Blaikburn and for the townes for Kirkcaldie Mr John Miller, for Kingorne Mr Robert Cunningham, for Burntiland Mr George Gairdens, whose voits being requyred anent the chuseing of the ministers, commissioners to be sent to the General Assemblie chusit Mr Robert Douglas, Minister at Kirkcaldie; Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister at Skunnie, thair commissioners, and Mr John Smith, Minister at Leslie; Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert, and Mr George Gillespie, Minister at Weyms, assessors with them, and for the gentrie they chused the Erle of Rothess and the Lairds of Durie, Bogie and Halyairds assessors with him. The heretors of the landword of the paroche of Burntiland having given in ane supplicatioun desyreing the Presbytrie to provyd them ane

sufficient man of thair number who may be thair minister, the brethren taks the mater to thair consideratioun and advyss.

For celebraition of the communion in Markinche the brethren appoynts Mr John Smith, Mr Frederik Carmichael, Mr Robert Cranstowne and Mr Georg Gilespie for that purpose. John Campell was officiar for sowmonding of Doctor Andro Lawmonth. They appoynt him to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

DYSERT, *September* 27, 1638.

The whilk day . . . . Mr Robert Cunningham haveing ane act of Counsell from the towne of Kingorne was resaved for the General Assemblie. Doctor Lawmonth being sowmonit sent his excuse that he durst not come for haisard.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 4.

The whilk day . . . . Memorandum to advertyse the brethren to the nixt day for chuseing ane Moderator.

Cristian Wilson and hir dochters compeiring for some poynts of witchcraft alledgit aganest hir, they are ordeaned to be wardit and intimation to be maid that if any person hes aught aganest them they may compeir and be hard. Mr Harie Wilkie is appoyntit to preach in Burntiland the nixt Sabbath and the Parson of Dysert to follow. Desyres Mr Thomas Melvill to deale further with Janet Aytone and hir husband to reconceill befoir the communion. Mr Patrik Gilespie handled the place of Scripture assignit to him with good approbation. They ar content that he pass upon the publick exercise. John Williamson, Bailie of Kirkcaldie, his commission authorised as commissioner for the General Assemblie to Glasgow.

DYSERT, *October* 11, 1638.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Douglas presented ane copie of the last protestatioun in print togither with some directions from the Table in Edr. The Moderator continewed to Candelmes. Ordeanes to proceid aganest Doctor Lawmonth. Elders present, My Lord Sinclair, the Lairds of Durie, Auchmowtie, Babirnie. Assessers appoyntit for the ruleing elders to the Assemblie, the Lairds of Halyairds, Auchmowtie, Babeadie, James Pitcairne.

Memorandum to tak notice anent the number of arms in everie paroche aganest the first of November. Item anent dreiling.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Doctor Andro Lawmonth to be sowmonit to the nixt day for deserting the Presbytrie, pro 2. The second sowmons being used, returned indorsat.

DYSERT, *October* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Elders present, the Lairds of Auchmowtie, Kirkforther, Bandon who desyred further help of the brethren, who also declaired that Peter Antones sowmonit, Doctor Lawmonth pro 3, befoir thir witnesses, John and

David Balfours, John Orme. The brethren appoynts Mr John Blyth to preache in Markinche the 2 nixt Sabbaths. Mr John Smith appoyntit to preache in Burntiland the nixt Sabbath. The commission for these who are appoyntit to goe to the General Assemblie subscryvit. A General Fast to be intimated the nixt Sabbath.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . The commissioners for the General Assemblie viz :— Mr Robert Douglas, Mr Frederik Carmichel, Mr Robert Cranstowne and the Erle of Rothess, elder, acceptit thair commissioun with oath and lifted up hands promeising fidelitie. . . .

The third sowmons aganest Doctor Lawmonth, returned indorsat be David Kynneare, who sowmonit him at his dueling hous befoir witnesses, David Bennet, the Laird of Burntowne and Gilbert Murray, who being called, compeired not. The elders of Markinche gave in ane lybell aganest Doctor Lawmonth, containeing a number of accusatiouns. The brethren directs Mr John Smith to goe to him and confer with him etc, and appoynts the clerk to give him the copie of the lybell given in aganest him. David Browne of Viccarsgrainge appoyntit to goe to the General Assemblie assesser for James Colvill of Babeadie who is sick : he acceptit the samyn.

Mr Georg Gilespie presentit ane presentatioun from My Lord Elcho to the Parsonage of Methell.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 7, 1638.

The whilk day some of the brethren being conveined viz, the Ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Skunnie, Weyms, Leslie, they hard Mr John Scott handel the place of Scriptur that was assignit to him viz, John 3, 16, with approbatioun, who prescryvit to him ane other text viz, Rom 9, 13.

DYSERT, *November* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Gilespie his collatioun and ordinatioun to the parsonage and vicarage of Methell was subscryvit, and the Parson of Dysert, Moderator appoyntit to goe to Methell with him, and put him in possession thairof.

Doctor Andro Lawmonth sent his excuse that his absence of the Presbytrie was not of contempt bot feare, and desyred to be tryed anent the callumnies given in aganest him. All continewed till after the Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . They appoyntit that the sentences pronounced aganest the Bs should be copied, and delyverit the nixt day to be intimat.—My Lord Sinclaire ruleing elder, being present.

Mr Georg Gilespie Minister at Weyms, declaired to the brethren sundrie presumptiouns of witchcraft aganest ane Janet Durie in Weyms. The brethren

desyres him first to try the saids presumptions befoir his sessioun, and thairafter to bring them to the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 3, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . The intimatioun of the sentences aganest the Bs to be continued to the nixt day. Janet Durie continewed to the nixt day. Doctor Andro Lawmonth to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Ordeanes the clerk to writt to Doctor John Michaelson to be present the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Doctor Lawmonth being sowmonit acknowledgit the samyne be his letter of excuse in respect of his great feare desyreing ane visitation of his kirk for tryell of the lybell given in aganest him. The Presbytrie in respect of his refractariness will grant him no visitation bot ordeanes him to be sowmonit to Kirkcaldie aganest the nixt day with certification that if he compeire not they will resave witnesses aganest him upon the lybell whereof they appoynt to give him ane copie. The clerk sending ane letter to Doctor John Michaelson he sent his excuse promiseing to be present the nixt day, which was accepted. The sentences of excommunication and depositions aganest the Bs are appoyntit to be intimate the nixt Sabbath in all congregations. Ordeanes Georg Gairdens to charge Doctor John Michaelson to intimate the said sentences or caus intimate them in his kirk the nixt Sabbath in name of General Assemblie and thair names as he will anser. Ordeanes Mr Andro Michaelson to abstaine from marying or baptiseing or any part of ministerial function in time comeing. The Presbytrie approves and allowes the act of the Session of Dysert dischargeing thair kirk buriall. Janet Durie to be sowmonit to the nixt day. The process aganest Janet Russell in the parochine of Auchterdirran, ordeaned to be prosecuted.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren except the tuo doctors declaired that they had intimate the sentences of excommunicatioun and dispositioun aganest the Bs who refused to doe it. Doctor John Michaelson being demandit if he acknowledge the lawfulness of the Assemblie anserit he would niver ackowledge the Assemblie till it wer confirmed in Parliament. Doctor Andro Lawmonth anserit even so. Doctor Andro Lawmonth being sowmonit acknowledges his sowmonding. They are both sowmonit *apud acta* to be present in Dysert the nixt Thursday. The Lairds of Auchmowtie, Babirnie, Kirkforther, parochiners of Markinche, having given ane lybell aganest Doctor Lawmonth, the said doctor protests that they may abyd be thair challenge and that their accusatiouns and his ansers may be registrat, and that they myt give thair oaths *de culumnio* giff they had just cause to pursue, whilk they did and protested before God that they carryit no evil will towards him. Witnesses for proveing the lybell compeiring, viz, Mr George Duddingstown, George Wilson in Pirnie, John Kynaird, Robert Gray, James Gibb, William Galloway, Henri Gibb, Peter Borthnik, John Webster, servitor to John Borthnik,

whose great oaths being taken to declaire the truth the tryell thairof is committed to Mr James Symeson, Mr Frederik Carmichel, Mr Georg Gilespie and the clerk and John Williamson. Compeired Janet Durie in Weyms challenged of witchcraft: denyes all: sowmonit *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day in Dysert. Harie Hutson in Auchtertule to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Walter Page having vaunted to have had ane woman and thairafter denyeing it is ordeaned to tak his oath.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 24, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . Commissioners from the Presbytrie of St Androis direct from the General Assemblie, My Lord Sinclaire, Mr Andro Auchinleck, Minister at Largo; Mr James Bruce, Minister at Kingsbarns, and from the Presbytrie of Cuper—Mr Walter Buchanan, Minister at Seres; Mr John Moncreife, Minister at Collessie; and my Lord Lindsay conveined with the commissioners of of this Presbytrie viz, the Erle of Rothess for Leslie; the Laird of Bogie for Kirkcaldie; Mr Robert Cuningham for Kingorne, the Laird of Halyairds for Auchtertule; the Laird of Arnett for Portmook; the Laird of Auchmowtie for Markinche; James Pitcairne of Kennoquhie; William Rig of Athernie for Skunnie; Sir Georg Hamilton of Blaikburn for Dysert; Georg Gairdens for Burntiland and Hallhill for the paroche, quihilks commissioners haveing sein ane lybell of grievances given in aganest Doctor John Michelson be Robert Richardson, Bailie of Burntiland, and Georg Gairdens thair to be proven be witnesses, viz, Georg Martine, Andro Bennet, Robert Galbraith, John Bosuell, Robert Hugown, Thomas Doctor, who being all dulie sworne to declaire the truth. The said Doctor John Michaelson being sowmonit *apud acta* the last day to be present, and being thryse called, and not compeiring, as also being thryse called to accept or cast the witnesses compeired not, and thairfor the commissioners appoynts Mr Robert Cranstowne and Mr Robert Cunningham to examine the said witnesses, who haveing returned the commissioners finds the lybell clearly proven and efter due deliberation finds the said Doctor Michaelson and Doctor Lawmonth worthie of deposition and be thir presents deposes them from their ministerial functions except they compeire and give satisfactioun to the brethren of the Presbytrie aither the nixt day or the nixt Thursday following, that is, this day fyftein dayes and ordeanes Mr William Nairn, Parson of Dysert; Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers of Kirkcaldie, and Mr Robert Cunningham to intimate the sentence to Doctor John Michelson, and Robert Cranstowne, Mr George Gillespie and Mr William Rig, Athernie to intimate the sentence to Doctor Andro Lawmonth of the quhilk sentences the tenor follows:—

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie and the commissioners of St Androis and Cupar Presbytries joyned with them be the ordinance of the General Assemblie holden at Glasgow for discussing of such maters as concerned the Parochine of Burntiland and Mr John Michaelson, minister thair, and was referred to them be the said Assemblie, which clad them with full power to determine anent the same according to the claimes given in aganest the said

Mr John hee, being lawfullie sowmonit be the Presbytrie *apud acta*, to compeire befoir them and the saids commissioners this day to anser these things which was referred to them be the foirsaid Assemblie and being thryse lawfullie called, and not compeirand, the Presbytrie and commissioners foirsaid proceeded to the examinatioun of the process led aganest them be Robert Richardson, bailie in Burntiland, and Georg Gairdens thair, complenars, who gave in certaine grievances and articles aganest the said Mr John Michaelson, and produced witnesses for proveing thairof, and the said Mr John being called upon to object aganest the witnesses, and not compeiring, the witnesses being deipelie sworne deponed as follows :—1. That for the space of a duson of years he had notcatechised the people. 2. That he affirmed publicklie in counsell that the Nobells wer doing nothing in thair meitting bot takeing the Crowne off the Kings Maties head, and putting it upon thair owne. 3. That he called the covenant a black covenant, and that he hes obtrudit his sone to preache and celebrat the sacrament, he being not lawfullie called to the functioun of ministrie—which premises being cleirlie and sufficientlie proven, the Presbytrie with the commissioners tooke it to thair due consideration, and find him worthie of deposition—for these causes and sundrie other causes conteined in the lybell given in aganest him to the General Assemblie, and for his contumacie as also the said Mr John will not acknowledge the lawfullness of the Assemblie, and refuses to intimate the sentences of excommunicatioun and depositioun aganest the sometime pretended bishopes being requyrit to doe the samyne be the brethren of the Presbytrie, and last of all refuses to acknowledge the commissioners appoyntit to sit in Dysert or Kirkcaldie be the General Assemblie adding to the former contumacie as said is, nevertheles the Presbytrie willing rather to gaine nor lose a man, who hath lived so long in the Ministrie ordaines him to compeire befoir the Presbytrie where it shall happen, then to convein for the time upon the 7 day of Februarii nixt in this instant year 1639, and thair to acknowledge to lawfullness of the General Assemblie, receive the constitutiouns thairof, and subscryve the Confession of Faith according to the Assemblies declaration, and resave order from the Presbytrie to mak publick declaration in the kirk of Burntiland of his unfained repentance for his dangaurose speeches and scandelous behaviour deserving a heigher censure whilk ordinance if he obey not, ordaines the Presbytrie to depose him the day foirsaid, and to declaire the said kirk of Burntiland to be vacant, and ordaines Mr William Nairn, Moderator, Minister of Dysert, Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas, Ministers of Kirkcaldie, and Mr Robert Cunningham of Woodfield in Kingorne, to intimate this sentence to the said Mr John Michaelson.

At Dysert, 24 day of *Januarii*, 1639.

The whilk day the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie and the commissioners of St Androis and Cuper Presbytries joyned with them be the ordinance of the General Assemblie at Glasgow, for discussing such maters as concerns the Parochine of Markinche, and Mr Andro Lawmonth minister thair, and now referred to them

be the said Assemblie, which clad them with full power to determine anent the samyne according to the claim given in aganest the said Mr Andro—he being lawfullie sowmonit to the Presbytrie *apud acta*, to compeire befoir the said commissioners this day, to anser to these things which was referred to them be the foirsaid Assemblie, and being thryse called upon and not compeirand, the Presbytrie and commissioners foirsaid proceeded to the examinatioun of the process led aganest him be Sir David Auchmowtie of that Ilk Knyt, and James Clark of Babirnie, compleaners, and having hard and considered the depositiouns of the witnesses led aganest the said Mr Andro, finds his railing aganest the subscryvers of the covenant calling them perjured, cleirlie proven. The Presbytrie and commissioners foirsaid, takeing it into thair due consideratioun finds him worthie of depositioun for thir causes following — His foirsaid railing aganest the covenants—for his obistinate refuseing to subscryve the same being oft delt with be the Presbytrie for his contumacie refuseing to compeire befoir the Presbytrie and the commissioners of the General Assemblie and for refuseing to acknowledge the lawfullness of the General Assemblie and constitutions thairof, whereof he gave evidence in refuseing to mak intimatioun of the excommunicatioun and depositioun of the sometimes pretended Bs which premeises being cleirlie and sufficientlie proven, the Presbytrie with the foirsaid commissioners took it to thair consideratioun, and finding him worthie of depositioun for the causes foirsaid yet willing to gaine rather than to lose such a man, ordeanes him to compeire upon the 7 day of Februarii nixt to come befoir the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, where it sall happen to sit for the time, and there to acknowledge the lawfullness of the General Assemb receive the constitutiouns thairof, and subscryve the Confessioun of Faith according to the Assemblies declairatioun, and resave order from the Presbytrie to mak publick declairatioun in the Kirk of Markinche of his unfained repentance for his raling speeches deserving a heigher censure, whilk ordinance if he obey not, ordeanes the Presbytrie to depose him the day foirsaid, and to declaire the kirk vacant, and ordeanes Mr Robert Cranstowne the Minister at Skunnie, Mr Georg Gilespie Minister at Weyms and William Rig of Atherine, to mak intimatioun of the present sentence to the said Mr Andro Lawmonth — whilk sentence the whole brethren all in one voyce approved.

The whilk day also Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, compleaning and regreating his caise to the Presbytrie, that whereas he had servit at the said kirk now these eight years bygone, yet to this day he had never aither gotten possesioun of the gleib belonging to the said Kirk, nor yit of all the Manss perteyneing to it, though both had bien desygnit and appoyntit to the minister serving the cure befoir him, whilk came to pass partlie through the contentious disposition of such as had the Gleib, and a part of the Manss in possession, partlie through the present minister, his peaceable disposition and unwillingness to enter in process with them, hopeing dailie the thing being so cleir in itself, he sould have prevailed it with them by a calmer course, but finding himself so long frustrate by this means, and considering with himself that he could naither be sufficientlie

easit without the rest of the manss, nor be able without great prejudice yearlie to hold aither ane horse to serve him as he had occasioun to travel about to the duties of his calling, as keiping the Presbytrie and visiting the sick and the lyk, nor any kyne for the use of his children and familie, and thairfoir he earnestlie desyred the brethren of his Presbytrie to tak this to thair consideration, and caus desygne him his gleib and the rest of the manss—quhilk desyre of his the brethren of the Presbytrie found to be so reasonable that they appoyntit Mr John Chalmer, elder, Minister at Auchterdirran, and Mr John Chalmer, his sone, and Mr William Nairn, minister at Dysert, Moderator for the time, to goe to the paroche of Kinglessie, upon the threttieth day of Januarii, 1639, and with some of the most sufficient gentlemen or honest men of the paroche, tuo or thrie, not being possessers of the gleib and manss belonging to the said kirk at Kinglessie, to cognosce of both manss and gleib, and with thair adyce and consent to appoynt and designe to the said Mr Thomas Melvill the whole manss belonging to the said kirk, with the pertinent and pendicles thairof, that he might be sufficientlie easit, in making his residence at the said kirk, and ane gleib of four aikers of arrable land, according to the act of Parliament, and by tradition of earth and stone give him to have possessioun of both, as also to declaire that they so gave him possessioun of these as having apperteyneing to them pasturage, fewell, and foggage, frie ishue and entrie, as is provydit in the law, and to the effect foirsaid the said Presbytrie ordaines the said Mr Thomas Melvill, minister, to causs warne all having enterest to be present at the paroche kirk upon the day appoyntit for designatioun, as also to causs some be present who might cognosce with the brethren appoyntit be the Presbytrie, by whose advyce and with whose consent they might proceid to the designatioun.

Compeired Janet Durie challangit anent sundrie poynts of witchcraft: denyed the same. Sundrie witnesses compeireand aganest hir being admittit and deiplie sworne deponed as follows:—*In primis* Adam Blaikwood Reider at Weyms deponed that he comeing to visit James Kedie in Weyms being sick the said James said to him that Janet Durie was the causs of his death he having stickit ane swine to the said Janet Durie befoir for whilk she had professit to causs him rewit.

Compeired John Walker who deponed that Robert Bennett he being sick and dead (as was thought) for he was streakit said that Janet Durie had the wyte of it.

Compeired Geills Thomson relict of Umqll. James Keddie who deponit that hir husband was sick of the disease whereof he died, hee said to Adam Blaikwood that Janet Durie was the causs of his death for when he stickit hir swine she said that she would causs him repent it. Compeired Kathren Courtier deponed that James Keddie being sick laid his death upon Janet Durie. The Presbytrie considering the things alledgit aganest hir thinks it is reason that she be wardit to abyd further tryell. Harie Hutson being sowmonit, called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 31.

The whilk day . . . The Moderator desyred that thair might be ane other Moderator chosen. The brethren puts in lite Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas Ministers of Kirkcaldie and Mr Robert Cranstowne Minister of Skunnie who being removed Mr Robert Douglas was chosen be pluralitie of voits to be Moderator bot deferred his entrie of office to the nixt day. The Parson of Dysert declaired that he with the rest that wer appoynit went to Doctor John Michaelson and dealt with him earnestlie and told him the Presbytries proceedings aganest him bot could nowayes prevail with him and that they intimat to him the sentence aganest him bot he wold give them no satisfaction. Doctor Andro Lawmonth being present proposed some doubts to the brethren desyreing to be resolvit anent them and requirit that Mr John Smith and Mr Georg Gilespie myt meitt with him to confer with him thairanent.

The Presbytrie permits them to goe with him. Mr William Bell declaired that Harie Hutson had satisfied the Kirk dicipline of Auchtertule. The whilk day Mr William Nairn Minister of Dysert and Mr John Chalmer, younger, Minister of Auchterdirran declaired to the brethren of the Presbytrie that according to thair ordinance they tuo with Mr John Chalmer, Elder, went to the paroche Kirk of Kinglessie on the day appoyntit and thair with advyce and consent of Mr Robert Aytone of Inchdarnie Mr James Schoner of Caskiebarrian and David Bosuell of Milldeans designit the whole Manss of the said Kirk with the parts and pendicles thairof and the whole four aikers arrable land in Gleib according to the Acts of Parliament and by tradition of earth and stone delyverit the same to the Minister thair personalie present accepting to remaine with him and his successors serving the cure *ad perpetuam remanentem.*

DYSERT, *Februari* 7, 1639.

The whilk day . . . Mr Robert Douglas enterit into the office of Moderation. The Clerk continewed bot adjoynes Mr Georg Gillespie with him to the nixt Synodall Assemblie to help him. Doctor Andro Lawmonth being sowmonit *apud acta* this day fyftein dayes to compeire this day being called compeired not bot sent ane letter shewing that he was not as yit satisfied of his doubts also Mr John Smith and Mr Georg Gilespie reportit that they went to him and conferred with him anent the resolutioune of his scruples and that they could prevaile nothing with him for he remained still contumacious. Compeired Collonell Leslie the Lairds of Babirnie Kirkforther and Bandon, parochiners of Markinche, to heir sentence pronounced aganest Doctor Andro Lawmonth whereof the tenor follows :—

The Presbytrie conform to the act and ordinance of the commissioun of the General Assemblie at Dysert, Januarii 24 last, and for the causes comprehendit in the said act of intimatioun whereof was maid to Mr Andro Lawmonth Minister at Markinche, be Mr Robert Cranstown Minister at Skunnie, and Mr Georg Gilespie Minister at Weyms, and William Rig of Athernie, who also offered to him ane sight of the whole acts of the Assemblie, if he would goe to Edinburt and see them

in Mr Archbald Johnston his hands, clerk to the said General Assemblie, the said Mr Andro after thrie days sight of the act, came to the Presbytrie and desyrit Mr John Smyth and Mr Georg Gilespie to meitt with him on Monday the fourth of this instant to resolve him of his pretendit scruples of conscience whom the Presbytrie permitted to goe, and now understanding by the report of the said tuo brethren that he remaineth still contumacious and refuseth to acknowledge the late Assemblie of Glasgow and constitutiouns thairof, or to doe what was injoyned him be act of the foirsaid commissioun, the said Mr Andro being appoyntit be the said act and warrnit be these who maid intimatioun to him of the samyne, to compeir before the Presbytrie this day, called, and compeireand hath deposed the said Mr Andro from all function of the Ministrie from preacheing of the word administratioun of the sacraments and exercise of the kirk dicipline, declairs the Kirk of Markinche to be now vacant withall, certifieing the said Mr Andro that if he cary not himself peaceblie and humblie, bot labour to draw others to his corrupt opinions the Presbytrie will proceed aganest him to heigher censures, according to the acts of Assemblies, and ordeanes Mr Mungo Law Minister at Dysert, to mak intimatioun heirof publicklie in the Kirk of Markinche on Sunday nixt, whereupon Collonell Leslie, parochiner of Markinche, asked instruments in the clerks hands.

The whilk day Doctor John Michaelson being sowmonit *apud acta*, to compeire this day called, compeired not, bot sent ane letter with some reasons of his doubts whilk he desyred the brethren to consider, whilk letter with the reasons foirsaid wer readd to the brethren and considered.

Compeired Robert Richardson, bailie of Burntiland, Georg Gairdens, John Russell, commissioners from the said Burt. to heare sentence pronounced aganest thair minister, Doctor John Michaelson of the which sentence the tenor follows :—

The Presbytrie conform to ordinance and act of the commissioun of the General Assmblie at Dysert the 24 day of Januarii last, and for the causes comprehendit in the said act, intimatioun whereof was maid to Mr John Michaelson, Minister at Burntiland, by Mr William Nairn Minister at Dysert, Mr James Symeson and Mr Robert Douglas Ministers at Kirkcaldie, and Mr Robert Cunningham of Kingorne, by whose report the Presbytrie finds that he is still contumacious and refuseth to acknowledge the late Assemblie at Glasgow and constitutions thairof, or to doe what was injoyned him be said act and commission which also he signifies in his letter and reasons sent to us this day, the said Mr John being appoyntit be the said act, and warraned be these who maid intimation to him of the samyne, to compeire befoire the Presbytrie this day, called, and not compeirand hath deposed the said Mr John from all function of the Ministrie, from preacheing the Word, administration of sacraments and exerciseing of kirk discipline, and declaires the kirk of Burntiland to be vacant, withall certifing the said Mr John that if he cary not himself peaceablie and humblie, bot labour to draw others to his corrupt opinion, the Presbytrie will proceid aganest him to heigher censures according to the acts of Assemblie, and ordeanes Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Portmook, to mak intimation heirof publicklie in the Kirk of Burntiland upon Sonday nixt, whereupon John Bosuell schipper in Burntiland, asked instruments in the clerks hands.

KIRKCALDIE, *Feb.* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie reportit that he went to Burntiland the last Sabbath and did as he was appoyntit. Compeired Janet Miller confesit she had brought foorth ane bairne to Walter Lawmonth nyne years since and affirmed that the bairne was babtised at Buckieburne be ane Mr James Bannerman as ane testimonial bears. The brethren thinks expedient to writt to the Presbytrie of Stirline to try the mater whilk is done and the woman continewed till word come back againe.

Ane act being presentit from the General Assemblie at Glasgow in favors of the parochiners of the new erected Kirk at Corsphairne in Galloway for ane contribution for a settled steipend to the said Kirk the Presbytrie grants thair concurrence thairanent.

Anent the serving of the cure in the Ministrie of the Kirk of Markinche the brethren appoynts Mr Thomas Melvil to goe thither the nixt Sabbath, and thairafter to serve them with expectants and thinks meitt that the nixt adjacent ministers shall serve them in babtiseing thair bairnes and marying thair folks and holding of thair sessioun upon weik days when neid sal requyre. Mr Robert Cranstoun is appoyntit to goe to Burntisland the nixt Sabbath and preache.

Mr George Gilespie proponed anent Isobel Dick in the Weyms widder he sall enter in process with hir *de novo* anent hir scandalous behaviour with Patrik Mackenzie or if he sall enter where Mr Patrik Mearns his predecessor left. They agree to the last. The Presbytrie having important and speciall reasons represented for haisting the maryage of William Gray younger, appeirand of Pittindrum upon Mistress Anna Gray, dochter to Andro Lord Gray and considering that the Book of Discipline permitteth the ordinari courss of the proclamation of banns thrie several Lordes dayes to be schortned at the discretioun of the ministrie hath thairfoir dispensed with Mr Georg Gilespie Minister at Weyms to mary the foirsaids parties after twyse proclamation of banes tuo several Lords dayes which we testifie be these presents written and subscrybit, etc. John Shorthous in Kingorne being disobedient to the sessioun of Kingorne being privatelie sowmonit is appoyntit to be sowmonit to compeire befoir the Presbytrie. Elders present the Erle of Dalhousie, Lairds of Auchmowtie, Halyairds, Bogie, Atherine, and Rob. Richardson in Burntiland.

DYSERT, *Feb* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren appoyntit to intimate a fast the nixt Sabbath to be keipit the Sabbath thairafter. Mr James Symeson is appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath to preache thair and aither the Parson of Dysert or Mr Mungo Law to goe to Burntiland as thai please.

Appoynts Athernie and Mr Mungo Law to goe to Mr Thomas Hogg and deale with him to keip the meitings of the brethren. Anent the babtiseing of ane bairne in Markinche: continewed till a more frequent meiting. John Schortes in the parochine of Kingorne being sowmonit for disobedience to the sessioun of Kingorne

called: compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Elders present the Lairds of Athernie and Babirnie and Rob. Richardson.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren declaired that they had intimate the fast the last Sabbath. Compeired John Shortes for disobedience to the sessioun of Kingorne, who in respect Grisell Watson with whom he is slanderit is not heir, sowmonit *apud acta*, to be present the nixt day, and the said Grisell to be sowmonit thairto to be confrontit togither.

Mr John Chalmer, younger, is appoyntit to goe to Burntiland the nixt Sabbath to preache thair and to keip the fast, Mr John Blyth to Markinche.

DYSERT, *March* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Schortes: the woman also called, and not compeireing, he is sowmonit *apud acta*, to be present the nixt day. Presents onlie—Mr James Symeson, Mr William Bell, Mr Georg Gilespie and Mr John Chalmer, a great lot of the brethren being at ane meitting for the Kirk at Edr. Mr John Chalmer, younger, appoyntit to goe to Burntiland the nixt Sabbath, because he went not the last. Mr Thomas Bigger produced ane act of Grisell Watson hir disposition befoir the Sessioun of Kingorne, who now compeirand (bot too late) is sowmonit *apud acta* to the nixt day. Compeired Isobell Dick in the Weyms for slanderous behaviour with Patrik Mackenzie, bot becauss the meitting is rare, she is continewed to this day fyftein dayes to the whilk she is sowmonit *apud acta*. Elders present—Athernie, John Williamson for Kirkcaldie, and John Bosuell for Burntiland. Mrs William Bell and Georg Gilespie, Athernie, and John Williamson appoyntit to goe and deale with Mr Thomas Hogg to keip the meittings of the brethren. James Wate in Auchtertule to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 14, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Shortes and Grisell Watson: confrontit togither. The said Grisell affirmed that he struglit with hir, and that she became so waik with strugling, that she wist not whidder he had to doe with hir or not, bot confessit that he lifted hir cloathes, and that she saw his wand out of his breaches, bot could not tell further as said is. The said John confessit that he struglit with hir bot meddled not with hir, and that it was upon the 2 of August last. The Presbyterie considering that it was adulterous behaviour in him at least, ordeanes him to mak his publick repentaunce one day in sackcloath thairfoir, and absolves the woman in respect she told immediatelie thairafter. Elders present—the Lairds of Babirnie and Bogie, and Patrik Angus in Burntiland.

Compeired Alexander Bruce, bailie of Kingorne, and Walter Duncan clerk, desyreing the brethrens concurrence to deale with the Presbytrie of Cuper to grant transportation to Mr John Moncrieff, Minister at Collessie, with whom they have agreed to be thair Minister etc. The Presbytrie appoynts ane letter to be written

to the Presbytrie of Cuper to that effect, and ordeanes the Moderator and clerk to subscryve the samyne in thair names. Mr Robert Douglas appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath to teache thair, Mr Robert Tode to goe to Burntiland.

DYSERT, *March* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent John Kirkcaldy, scholemaster in Peathhead, who is slanderit with ane woman, ane other mans wyff thair, the Presbytrie ordeanes them to be dischargit to haunt ane others companie with certificatioun etc. Anent the woman of Markinche who hes brought foorth ane bairn to ane Northland man, who is not certainlie knowne whidder he be maryed or not, the Presbytrie ordeanes that she satisfie for the present as ane fornicatrix, obliging hirself in the meantime to satisfie as ane adultress if it sall be proven that the man be maryit. Elders present — the Lairds of Blaikburn, Athernie, Bandon, Georg Gairdens. Mr William Bell appoyntit to preache in Burntiland the nixt Sabbath, Mr David Barclay in Markinche. Patrik Mitchell and Cristian Fernie in the Paroche of Kingorne being sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2.

March 28, 1639.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect that Mr James Baxter who should have exercised was not in health. Certain brethren meitting they desyre Mr William Nairn younger to goe to Burntiland the nixt Sabbath to preache thair. Mr Harie Wilkie is appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath to preache thair and Mr Georg Murray to preache in his Kirk at Portnook.

Mr Robert Cunningham and James Robertson commissioners from Kingorne presented ane letter from the Presbytrie of Cuper bearing thair consent to the transportation of Mr John Moncrieff Minister at Collessie within thair bownds to the Kirk of Kingorne and thairafter craved ane edict to be servit for his admission and resaving thair. The Presbytrie appoynts the Clerk to give them ane edict to be servit the nixt Sabbath and appoynts Thursday the 11 of April nixt to come for his resaving and Mr James Symeson to preache thair the said day. Mr Mungo Law and Mr Robert Cranstowne ar appoyntit to goe to Burntiland the Sunday after Pash to celebrat the communion thair. Cristian Fernie in the parochine of Kingorne fornicatrix with Georg Thomson being sowmonit, called : compeired not, is to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Patrick Mitchell being sowmonit is fled. The brethren according to ane old lawdable custome wer removed be course and censured and desyred to keip the Presbytrie better in time comeing.

Elders present the Lairds of Blaikburn, Athernie, Coule, commissioners foirsaid from Kingorne Georg Gairdens from Burntiland. Brether absent Mrs Alexr. Scrimgeor, David Anderson, Thomas Melville, Thomas Powtie, Mr Robert Douglas and Mr Georg Gilespie who ar at Aberdein. The brethren ar to meitt on Friday at Cuper to keip the Assemblie thair.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KINGORNE, *April* 11, 1639.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson Minister of Kirkcaldie preached ; text, Rom. 12, 6. After incalling upon the name of God (the edict being servit) Mr John Moncrieff was resavit Minister of Kingorne fellowhelper to Mr Alexander Scrimgeor present Minister without any objection in the contrair, whose presentation be the Erle of Kingorne to the local steipend and manss of the said Kirk (reserving Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, his life rent) being sein be the brethren was approven and collation grantit to him thairupon whilk thairafter accordinglie was given to him be Mr William Nairn Moderator, for the time, be giving to him possession of the Manss and Gleib be deliverance of earth and stone reserving Mr Alexander Scrimgeors life rent alanarlie as also institution. The commissioners from Burntiland with Mr Andro Leslie compeiring the said commissioners viz. Georg Gairdens, John Bosuell etc., craved that the said Mr Andro Leslie may have libertie to preache to them in Burntiland. The Presbytrie desyres him to bring ane testimonial from the parts where he lived. Absents Mrs William Bell, Frederick Carmichael. The exercise is to hald in Dysert the nixt day and thairafter ay goe about *per vices*.

DYSERT, *April* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Cristian Fernie being sowmonit privatelie pro 3, called, compeired not : to be sowmonit publicklie.

Georg Thomson being sowmonit pro 1. called compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Patrick Angus and Alexr. Dick commissioners from Burntiland compeiring anent Mr Andro Leslie the Presbytrie oversies him and desyres that he may use diligence for his testimonial. Mr Robert Cranstown appoyntit to goe to Burntiland the nixt Sabbath to celebrat the communion thair. Alexr Mathie to be sowmonit to the nixt day for slanderous behaviour of adultrie with Georg Sibbalds wyff.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 25, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . Georg Thomsone being sowmonit called compeired not is to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Mr Andro Pringell craving that he may pass upon the exercise the brethren gives him the 16 vrs of the 1 chapter to the Romans to handel privatelie.

Mr William Bell appoyntit to go to Markinche to the nixt Sabbath to preache thair. Mr Frederick Carmichaels absence the last day excused.

Compeired Janet Miller who had brought foorth ane bairne to Mr Walter Lawmonth ordained to goe to Skunnie and mak hir repentance thair. Helen Thomson compleaneing upon Mr David Anderson for refuseing baptism to hir bairne notwithstanding she is willing to satisfie as hir faults salbe tryit to be and offers caution to that effect. The brethren desyres Mr John Chalmer to goe to Mr David and requyre him to baptise the bairne otherwayes to doe it himself the man takeing with the bairne and presenting it. Alex Mathie being sowmonit, his last dayes absence being past over, called now compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. James Rae, his bairne, appoyntit to be baptised.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 9.

The whilk day Mr Georg Murray exercised without addition, doctrine censured and allowed. No exercise the last in respect of the Kings shipps in the Firth. Presents onlie the Ministers of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Wemys, Leslie, Skunnie, Portmook. Mrs John Smith, Frederik Carmichel, Mungo Law being passing to the bound road. Mr John Chalmer to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath. Mr Andro Pringell handeled the place of scriptur assignit to him be the brethren viz. Rom. 1 16 wherein he gave them great contentment. They assigne to him yit for further tryell Esai 53. 1

DYSERT, *Maii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . It is thought meit be the brethren that thair be a fast intimat the nixt day to be kept the Sabbath following and appoynts Mrs John Blyth and Georg Murray to keip the samyne at Markinche and to preache thair.

Mr Andro Pringell handled the place of scriptur assignit to him be the brethren viz. Esai 53. 1 with approbatioun. They appoynt him to handel the Cowmonhead *De Peccato Originali* and ordaines that all expectants shall handell the Cowmonhead heirafter befoir they pass upon the publick exercise.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Mansie Kilgours, Kathren Alie, Elspett Grig, Elspett Hutsone all induellers in Dysert being sowmonit to declair what they know of Margaret Douglas in Kirkcaldie concerning witchcraft who all being admitted be the said Margaret thair present and sworne deponed as follows :—Mansie Kilgour deponed that Margaret Douglas being sent for to hir dochter, who was traveling with child, when she came to the houss the woman (who was weill befoir) who opened the durr to hir became sick immediatelie.

Kathren Alie deponed that Margaret Douglas being sent for to Bessie Durkie, who was traveling, Isobel Hutsone servant to Mansie Kilgour, opened the durr to the said Margaret who went and took the sick woman be the hand and said to hir she hoped in God she sould be weill and the said Isobell Hutsone who opened the durr to the said Margaret (being then in health) become sick immediatelie as a woman traveling and went foorth and she following hir found hir in the byre lying upon the cow. Elspett Hutsone, sister to the said Isobell Hutsone deponed that when Margaret Douglas (being sent for) com to the houss the said Isobell Hutsone opened the durr to hir who being weill become sick immediallie and was never weill till she dyed and never wrought thairafter bot was continewalie pained and that hir sister told hir that Margaret Douglas took hir be the hand and said to hir your Mistresses dochters sall be weill, I hope in God, and she fell down immediatlie sick and brak hir lace and went into ane chalmer and patt hir back to a bedd and a kist to hir womb for paine.

DYSERT, *Maii* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Georg Thomson to be sowmonit to the nixt day and Cristian Fernie to be proceeded aganest. The fast being celebrat the last Sabbath

in the kirks of this Presbytrie yit seing thair is ane universal fast appoyntit the brethren thinks meitt that they joyne also with the rest in observing the samyne the nixt Sabbath.

KIRKCALDIE, *Juni* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Law skipper in Kirkcaldie declaireing his grief and trouble of mind for that being compelled be the Marques of Hamiltowne he had subscryvit aganest the covenant, aganest the Assemblie of Glasgow, the Kings supremacie, and that he sould never lift arms in this our causs craving the brethrens judgement if he may writt to the Marquess and Sir James Lockhart sheweing them that whatsoever he did was be compulsion and that he passes from the samyne. The brethren thinks that he may and sould doe it.

DYSERT, *Junii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Sir Georg Bosuells process continewed. Alexander Mathie called compeired not, the last day being past by; he is ordained to be sowmonit againe to the nixt day pro 2. Cristian Fernie being sowmonit called, compeired not: appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Also Georg Thomson being thryse sowmoned called, compeired not: ordaines him to be proceeded aganest.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Cristian Fernie compeireing the last sessioun day in Kingorne confessit hir fault: remitts hir to the Minister of Kingorne. Alexander Mathie being sowmonit called compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Sir Georg Bosuells process yit continewed.

DYSERT, *Juni* 27.

The whilk day . . . . Georg Thomson and Cristian Fernie being sowmonit to compeire befoir the sessioun of Kingorne, called, compeired not: the Presbytrie ordeans the Minister to goe on with the process aganest them. The Lairds of Auchmowtie, Babirnie, and Kirkforther compeiring in name of the rest of the heretors for the parochine of Markinche craveing be supplicatioun to have a Minister; the Presbytrie desyres them to condescend upon one man.

Mr Robert Cranstown is appoyntit to preache in Markinche the nixt Sabboth. A solmne thanksgiving is appoyntit to be celebrat the nixt Sabboth for this cessation from war.

Kathren Keaplie a stranger craveing babtism to hir bairne quhilk she fathers upon one John Purdie who is not to be found, is refused becauss she has no testimonial. Compeired Alison Sanderson adultres in the Weyms and resaved hir last injunctions.

Compeired Alexr. Mathie challenged for drinking with Georg Sibbalds wyff and ryding befoir hir to Kirkcaldie and being found naked in hir bedd: confessit all bot affirmed that he was drunken and knew not what he was doeing. Sowmond *apud acta* to compeire in Kirkcaldie the next Thursday that witness may be led

aganest him. Isobell Dick in Weyms being sowmonit called, compeired not: to be sowmonit to this day eight dayes pro 2. Ruleing elders present the Lairds of Athernie.

The said day compeired Sir Georg Bosuell who confessit his fault of adulterie with Margaret Alexander and resaved his first injunctions. Compeired Isobel Dick desyred to be purged of the slander of adulterie with Patrik Mackenzie. The Presbyterie grants hir desyre and thinks meitt to pass by the former decreit given out aganest hir and to enter with her *de novo:* sowmonit *apud acta* to appear the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Julii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The ruleing elders being chosen in everie particular congregatioun they compeired with thair several commissiouns. *In primis* for Kingorne Mr Robert Cunningham; as for Burntiland and Markinche the brethren passes by them in respect they have no Ministers. For Auchtertule the Laird of Halyairds, for Auchterdirran James Colvill of Babeadie, for Ballingrie Mr Alexr. Colvill of Blair, for Kinglessie Mr Robert Aytone of Inchdairnie, from Leslie the Erle of Rothess, from Kennoquhie, James Pitcairne of Treaton, from Skunnie, William Rig of Athernie, from Weyms, the Erle of Weymss, from Dysert, Sir Georg Hamilton of Blaikburne, for Kirkcaldie, the Laird of Bogie younger. In craveing the voices they think expedient to crave the Ministers voyce of everie particular congregation and his ruleing elders voyce immediatelie togither. Mr Robert Douglas, Mr Frederik Carmichael, and Mr Robert Cranstowne who wer commissioners to the last Assemblie at Glasgow chosen now of new for commissioners for this ensueing Assemblie. The assessors also who were befoir at the Assemblie continewed viz. Mr Mungo Law, Mr John Smith, Mr Georg Gilespie. Continews the answer to the supplicatioun of the people of Markinche till the Assemblie. Compeired Isobel Dick in Weyms for slanderous behaviour of adulterie with Patrik Mackenzie who haveing denyed the samyne, compeired witnesses for proveing of the samyne, viz. Bessie Williamsone, Helen Cowan, Thomas Jack, Thomas Curror, Adam Blaikwode, Georg Corsall, Archbald Smith, Patrik Ramsay, Cecil Dick. The said Isobell Dick objected aganest Bessie Williamsone and Helen Cowan bot becauss hir reasons wer not relevant they wer rejected and they admitted as witnesses. All the foirsaid witnesses being admittit and sworne deponed as followes:—Helen Cowan deponed that she has oft-times sein Patrik Mackenzie and Isobell Dick lye togither and that she hes holden the candell till they have gone to thair bed togither. Bessie Willaimsone deponed that she has maid the bed oft-times wherein Patrik Mackenzie and Isobell Dick hes layen togither—these tuo being hir servants. Thomas Jack deponed that one morning he comeing in at Isobell Dicks back durr he saw ane naked persone who had risen to mak water (when he come in) rin in behind the chimney and lye and hyde himself, and thair was bot one bedd in the houss and that when he went his way he bad Isobel Dick steik hir durrs better. Ane supplicatioun being sein be the brethren given in be Isobell Dick to the sessioun of the Weyms wherein the said Isobell confesses hir

lewd conversation and slanderous lyff craving mitigation of the sentence given out aganest hir. Adam Blaikwode compeiring, deponed that it was the just copie of the supplicatioun given in be the said Isobell. Archbald Smith deponed that about ten years since he saw Patrik Mackenzie and Isobell Dick in James Laws houss togither at the milk. Patrik Ramsay deponed that he saw Patrik Mackenzie in Isobell Dicks houss. Cecil Dick sister to the said Isobell deponed that Patrik Mackenzie resorted to Isobell Dicks houss when she duelt in Leyth and haunted thair the space of a year and that she had said to some folks she was sorie for hir sisters behaviour. This process continewed till this day fyftein dayes. The excommunication of Mr John Guthrie pretendit Biscope of Murray who was excommunicat upon the 16 day of Junii in the Heigh Kirk of Edr. appoyntit to be intimat in all the Kirks of the Presbyterie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alexander Mathie anent his slanderous behaviour with Georg Sibbads wyff: confessit as befoir, bot no farther.

Compeired Robert Frenche witness anent the slanderous behaviour of Alexander Mathie with Georg Sibbalds wyff: admittit: deponed that he saw him lying naked in the bedd drunken bot she was not within. The Presbytrie considering that it is adulterous behaviour in him and not being able to get further process ordaines him to come befoir the pulpett of Kirkcaldie and acknowledge his sin of drunkeness and his slanderous behaviour with that woman and if ever he be found in hir companie thairafter to be punished as ane adulterer. Anent the baptiseing of bairnes whidder sett dayes sall be appoyntit for the samyne or not or whidder baptism sall be celebrate befoir or after the blessing referrs the samyne to the determination of the nixt Provincial Assemblie. Mr John Chalmer declaired that Cristian Russell was excommunicate upon the 7 of Julii whilk excommunication is appoyntit to be intimate in all the Kirks of the Presbytrie.

DYSERT, *Julii* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . A fast appoyntit to be keipit the nixt Sabbath and the Sabbath thairafter befoir the Assemblie. . . . Anent the slander of adulterie of Isobel Dick with Patrik Mackenzie the brethren finds the said slander fullie proven and thairfoir ordaines the said Isobell to sitt 9 Sabbath dayes upon the stoole of publik repentance 8 in hir owne cloths and the 9 in sackcloth and ordaines hir to absteine from the said Patrik, his companie, in all time comeing under the paine to be holden as ane adulteress and so to satisfie accordinglie. The foirsaid Isobell Dick heireing the sentence given out aganest her gave in ane appellation appealing to the nixt General Assemblie: the brethren accepts of the samyne whereupon she took instruments in the Clerks hands. Compeired John Schorteous: ordained to mak his repentance as befoir for his slanderous behaviour.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . A question being proponed whidder noncovenanters

be admitted to the Lords table or not. Ansers; no wilfull noncovenanters should be admittit. A fast intimat the last Sabbath.

DYSERT, *August* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Douglas reportit that he went to Burntiland and held the sessioun thair when he resaved Georg Gairdens ruleing elder for Burntiland and resaved Andro Schort who had sworne and subscyvit the Kings covenant in James Laws schipp.

Reference to the Assemblie concerning these who hes sworne and subscryved the Kings covenant. Item quhat order sall be taken of them who will not communicate in thair congregations and yit communicates abroad. Item anent those who comes not to the examinations.

DYSERT, *September* 19, 1639.

The whilk day being the first day of meitting after the General Assemblie at Edr. . . . . Compeired Janet Fairlie relapse in fornication having also committed adultrie befoir craveing baptism to hir bairne whilk she fathers upon one Andro Keyninmonth. The Presbytrie appoynts to baptise the bairne if he who is supposed to be the father of it will present it or some other honest man who will promeise for it and she thairafter to be resaved to hir repentance.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Georg Thomson and Cristian Fernie being thryse privatelie sowmonit to compeire befoir the sessioun of Kingorne and thryse publicklie for cohabiting together slanderouslie and giving no obedience ar ordained to be sowmonit to the nixt day of meitting to heir themselfs declaired to be contumacious and thairafter to be proceeded aganest to excommunicatioun. Also Efie Ritchie in Weyms being also both privatelie and publicklie sowmonit for not haunting the Kirk, to be declaired contumacious.

James Adamson being direct from Burntiland compeiring declaired that thair was ane woman who had brought foorth tuo bairns at one birth in fornication whilk Mr Andro Leslie refuses to baptise in respect he is not authorised so to doe.

The Presbytrie directs Mr John Moncrieff to goe thither and baptise the bairnes and referrs other things to the Assemb. whilk is to hold the nixt weik in St Androis. The Ministers being removed *per vices* for thair tryell each praises God for other. Appoynts Mr John Chalmer and Mr William Bell to preache tuyse everie Sabbath.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 10.

The whilk day (the Synodall Assemblie of St Androis being continewed till the 29 of the said moneth) . . . . . Mr John Moncrieff reportit that he went to Burntiland as he was appoyntit. Mr William Bell and Mr John Chalmer

admonished to preache tuyse everie Sabbath day. Markinche petition craveing help continewed.

DYSERT, *October* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederick Carmichael appoyntit to goe the nixt Sabbath to Markinche to preache thair.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 24.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer reportit that he had dealt with Sir Georg Bosuell to obey the ordinance of the Presbytrie given out aganest him for his adultrie committed with Mart Alexr. and that he sawe no willingness in him bot delayes. The Presbytrie appoynts him to proceed aganest him, first, by thrie publik citations under paine of contumacie and thairafter if he remaine disobedient to proceed to excommunication of him. Andro Keyninmonth servitor to David Seton being sowmonit to be confrontit with Janet Fairlie who fathers ane bairne upon him called: not compeireand: ordaines him to be sowmonit to compeire befoir the Presbytrie the nixt (to be confrontit with the woman) that is to say this day fyftein dayes pro 2. David Dalrumple being direct from Markinche for help of some brother to preache in Markinche the nixt Sabbath they appoynt the Parson of Dysert to goe thither the nixt Sabbath and Mr Georg Gilespie the Sabbath thairafter. Compeired Robert Sibbald adulterer in Weyms: resaved his last.

Ordeanes to keip the nixt Tuysday in St Androis for the Assemblie which was continewed thairto. Isobell Dick to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 7 1639.

The whilk day being the first day of meitting after the Synodoll Assemblie in St Androis . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstowne be pluralite of voyces was chosen moderator till the nixt Synod. Mr William Nairn, younger, requestit be the brethren to preache in Markinche the nixt Sabbath.

Mr John Moncrieff craveing collation (upon his presentation to the stepend of Kingorne) they appoynt Mr Mungo Law to goe thither for that effect. The Presbytrie gives warrand to Mr William Bell to mary Cristian Kelly who produced ane testimonial of hir mariage with one John Dickson and another of the death of the said John—the first from Irland the second from Kinneill.

Compeired ane Janet Barclay with ane testimonial from Irland declairing hir to have been marryed thair to ane John Curror, Scotsman, who is for the present in the paroche of Kirkcaldie whither the Presbytrie remitts the mater to be tryed. Appoynts the fast to be keipit with all possible diligence. Ruleing elders from Burntiland to be present the nixt day.

DYSERT, *November* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . John Lundie in the Links of Kirkcaldie to be sowmonit to the nixt day for alledgit adulterie.

Compeired John Curror and Janet Barclay his spous whom the said John

confessit that he had maryit in Irland as hir testimonial bears, notwithstanding the said John hes maryed one Mart Law in the paroche of Auchterdirran. He is dischargit be the brethren to companie any more with the said Mart Law and the Justice Depute to be advertysed concerning him.

The said John also to be wardit in Dysert till some order be taken with him. It is ordained heirafter that no servands salbe received within the bounds of this Presbytrie aither in Burgh or Landward without testimonials. Compeired Georg Thomson for interteyning Cristian Fernie in his houss scandalouslie: remitted to the sessioun of Kingorne. Thomas Montray ane gentleman come from Irland recommended be the Presbytrie to the charitie of the particular kirks within thair bounds.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Dysert appoyntit to advertyse the Justice Depute anent John Curror and he to be deteyned thair in the meantime.

Mr Andro Leslie and John Bosuell for Burntiland appoyntit to be present the nixt day. Anent Sr Georg Bosuells petition craveing langer continuance befoir he mak his repentance for his adultrie the Presbytrie persaveing his distrust of them ordains Mr John Chalmer to proceed.

DYSERT, *November* 28, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer declaired that he had sowmonit Sr Georg Bosuell publiklie to obey the Kirk by makeing his repentance for his adulterie under the pain of contumacie pro 1. Georg Gairdens and John Bosuell commissioners from Burntiland petitioned the Presbyterie that Mr Andro Leslie may have libertie to sit in the sessioun with them and exercise Kirk discipline with them. Answer thairto continewed till they know the mind of the haill parochiners anent him. Mr John Moncrieff gave in his *Theses* who is to handel the Cowmonhead the nixt day. Reference from the Synod anent the Burser of Theologie. The Presbytrie appoynts the Parson of Dysert, Mr James Smyeson and Mr John Moncrieff Ministers, the Lairds of Aithernie, Inchdairnie, and John Williamson to meitt in Kirkcaldie betwixt and this day fyftein dayes for stenting the Kirks for ane hundreth punds yearlie to be payit for its uss.

Item to advyse anent the competencie of paroches and Presbytries. Item anent scholes. Item anent same dayes in the weik to be appoyntit for babtiseing or marying. Item to remember to bring the Clerk fie for the Clerk of the Synodall Assemblie viz. a merk for ilk Minister and a merk for everie ruleing elder everie Synod.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 5, 1639.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the stenting to be set down for the Burser of Theologie the brethren nominate have appoyntit to meitt in Kirkcaldie upon Wednesday for that effect. Also the brethren and elders are appoyntit to bring the clerk fie to the clerk of the Synodall Assemblie with them. Mr John Smith is

appoyntit to goe to Markinche and to signifie to the General Leslie that thair be no exercise in his houss upon the Sabbath in time of publik and divine worshipp. Compeired Janet Barclay craveing of the brethren that she may have thair testimonial of the maryage of hir husband John Curror with ane second wyff one Margt. Law. The brethren grants to give their testimonials thairupon and ordeanes the Clerk to writt the samyne to hir.

The disputations upon the *Theses* continewed: the day being farr spent in respect of the letters and book from Edr. for the familie exercise.

Dysert, *December* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . It is appoyntit that heirafter thair salbe ane roll of the Ministers and ruleing elders and that it be called at each meitting. Mr John Moncrieff appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sabbath to preache thair and to signifie to them that the Presbytrie will help them no further and desyres them to provyd for themselfs.

Mr John Smith declaired his diligence the last day in preaching in Markinche and conferring with the Generall as he was appoyntit. The meitting of the towne and parochine of Burntiland being appoyntit to the nixt Tysday for setling ane condition for a minister thair, Mr John Smith and Mr William Bell ar appoyntit to meitt with them.

Mr John Moncrieff desyred of the Presbytrie that he may have their collation upon his presentation to the Kirk of Kingorne. The Presbytrie grants it to him and appoynts the Clerk to write the samyne. There wer appoyntit to stent the paroches for paying of the Burser of Theologie viz., Mr James Smyeson and Mr John Moncrieff Ministers, Inchdairnie, Athernie and John Williamsone elders, who declaired thair diligence that they met in Kirkcaldie the 11 day of this instant and set down thair stent as follows:

Kirkcaldie to pay - - -	22 Merks		
Dysert - - -	18 Merks	Kingorne - -	15 Merks
Burntiland - -	15 Merks	Auchtertule - -	4 Merks
Portmook - -	6 Merks	Ballingrie - -	4 Merks
Auchterdirran -	6 Merks	Kinglessie - -	8 Merks
Lesslie - - -	8 Merks	Markinche - -	15 Merks
Kennoquhie - -	8 Merks	Skoonie - - -	9 Merks
Wemyss - - - - - -	12 Merks		

Summa 110 lbs—150 Merks

Mr John Moncrieff his collation to the Kirk of Kingorne.

We the Ministers and Elders of the evangell of Jesus Christ within the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie to all and syndrie the true professors of Gods word wishes eternall salvation in the Lord Jesus, Witt yee that John Erle of Kingorne hes presented unto us be his letters of presentation under his supscription manuall

and seale of arms our beloved brother Mr John Moncriefe, Minister at Kingorne to the parsonage and vicerage of Kingorne lyand within the Diocie of St Androis Sherefdome of Fyfe and bounds of our Presbytrie vacand be deceas of Umqll. Mr Alexr. Scrimgeor last pastor parson and vicar thairof desyreing us to accept, resave, and admitt the said Mr John and provyd him to the parsonage and vicarage to authorise him with our testimonial, used in such causes, and give unto him our lawfull institution collation full admission thereupon according to the whilk letters of presentation—Wee understanding the qualificatioun, literature, behaviour and honest conversation of the said Mr John and finding him apt and able to use and discharge the office of ane Minister within the Kirk of God thairfoir hes admittit the said Mr John Moncriefe lykas be thir presents wee resave and admitt him to the parsonage and vicarage of Kingorne with the teynd schaves, fruits, small teynds and all other righteous pertinents apperteyning to the said parsonage and vicarage for all the dayes and terms of his lyff-time requyring you Mr Robert Cranstowne Moderator our brother to pass with all convenient diligence to the Kirk of Kingorne with the said Mr John Moncriefe and thair put him in reall and actuall possessioun of the said parsonage and vicarage teynd sheaves uther teynds, Manss, houses, yairds, Gleib, and all uther righeous pertinents perteyneing to the said parsonage and vicarage, desyreing also the Lords of our Soverane, Lords of Sessioun and Colledge of Justice to grant letters to the said Mr John upon a simple charge of ten dayes warneing for ansering and obeying of him in the said parsonage and vicarage, Manss, houses, yairds, Gleib, land and all uther righteous pertinents perteyneing thairunto conform to his presentation collation and admission in all poynts.—In witness and mare verification thairof Wee have subseryvit thir presents with our hands at Kirkcaldie the 19 day of December instant of 1639 years.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Georg Gairdens presented ane supplication from the towne and parochiners of Burntiland desyreing that they may have Mr Andro Leslie appoyntit to be thair Minister with whom they have agreed for his steipend, the said Mr Andro declairing that it was so. The Presbytrie yields to thair supplication and appoynts the said Mr Andro first to add to the exercise, thairafter to exercise and then to handel the Cowmonhead *De Interpretatione Scripturae* and thairafter to be resaved and in the meantime gives him libertie to preache, baptise, and marie persons and use dicipline, he being alreadie ane actuall minister.

It is regrated be the brethren that some parts of thair paroche that lyes farr of from them and ar more ewest to other Kirks that keip no order at all in comeing to thair owne paroche Kirks and sayes that they goe to these neirest Kirks and mony of them goes not at all to any Kirk, thairfoir the Presbytrie ordaines that such persons be urged to keip thair owne paroche Kirks under the paine of censure. John Topp in Dysert paroche who, as he alledges, was maryed at Colsamouth in Garioch with Mart Mitchell ordained to bring ane testimoniall of his mariage and so to get his bairne baptised. The same day resaved be Mr James Miller from Mr

Frederik Carmichel for the Burser of Theologie for the Kirk of Kennoquhie 3 Merks. Item for the Clerk of the Synod 2 Merks. Item from Mr Robert Cranstowne for the Kirk of Skunnie to the Burser 9 Merks. Item from him for the Clerk 2 Merks. Item from Mr William Bell for himself and from his ruleing Elder for the Clerk fie 2 Merks. Item from Mr James Symeson 1 Merk.

DYSERT, *December* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Janet Fairlie haveing first fallen in adulterie and now relapse in fornication: ordained to satisfie as ane adultress: resaved hir first injunctions.

Mr John Chalmer declaired that he haveing charged Sir George Bosuell under the paine of contumacie to mak his repentance for his adulterie that he came one day bot no more. The Presbytrie ordaines him to proceid aganest him. Mr John Moncrieff is appoyntit to charge Georg Thomson to cleir himself of the slander that he lyes under. To deale farther with Efie Ritchie in Weyms to come to the Kirk.

Mr John Moncriefe payed for the Burser - - - - - -	10 lbs
Item for the Clerk fie - - - - - - - - - - -	2 Merks
Mr Thomas Melvill payed for the Clerk - - - - - - - -	2 ,,
Mr John Chalmer payit for the Burser - - - - - - - -	6 ,,
Item resaved be Mr James Miller from the sessioun of Kirkcaldie - -	23 ,,

All resting in his hands.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 2, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Janet Pirate dochter to Walter Pirate in Kirknes desyreing hir bairne to be baptised. Being demaunded anent hir bairnes father she anserit that a man lay with hir about Fastings Even between Badernok and Glasgow, who called himself Robert Douglas a servand to the Marquess of Hamiltowne a lang weill favoured young man, yellow-haired without a beard, with a blew bonnet grey cloth and white hosen. The mater to be further tryed. Compeird Henri Imrie who affirmed that the said Janet Pirate come to his houss about Michelmes last, and desyred that she might stay in his houss till she had brought foorth hir bairne. He is appoyntit to be wardit for resaveing hir till farther tryell be taine. The Laird of Arnett excused Mr Harie Wilkies absence in respect of his sickness which was acceptit. Isobell Dick in Weyms being sowmonit *de novo*, for slanderous behaviour with Patrik Mackenzie. Mr Georg Gillespie produced ane deposition deponed befoir witnesses in the Weyms viz., Andro Peiter, James Thomson and John Keddie, be one Janet Philp servand to the said Isobell. Of the whilk deposition the tenor followeth :—

At WEYMS, *December* 30, 1639.

The whilk day compeired Janet Philp who deponed that she haveing come to Isobell Dicks houss Martinmes last, and stayed with hir in service about 5 weiks,

that Patrik Mackenzie was in the said Isobells houss lurking all the time that she was thair, except tuo dayes befoir she came away, and it was he whom Elspett Weyms hard hosting in Isobell Dicks bedd upon one day when the said Elspett come in thair, as also that upon a Friday at nyt, about eight dayes befoir she came away, Patrik Mackenzie thinking that she was out of the hall and gone to hir bedd, came down a secret passage to the said Isobells bedd whereat (she being yit in the hall) being affrayed creipt softlie upon hir hands and feete out of the hall, and that the said Patrik heireing some deinn threaped upon the said Isobell that the durrs wer open, who anserit it was the cate, also that she hard the said Isobell say to him, Woe is me yee ar tint for cold, and he ansered he had suffered more cold befoir, and she said to him she should happ him the better. Also that she saw the said Patrik souping with the said Isobell in the chalmer, and that sundrie other times she saw him thair with hir eyes, and knew him weill enough becauss she had known him befoir in Leyth, and that when he is thair he weares the overladers of shoes upon his soles when he is in the loft and weares ane covereing of ane bedd about him onder which he lyes down betwixt tuo chests when he fears that any one is comeing in. The whilk deposition the said Janet Philp deponed befoir the Presbytrie this day to be of trueth, and that John Blyth and Janet Dunn saw him also. Also compeired befoir the Presbytrie Cristian Thomson who deponed that she being duelling with Isobell Dick befoir Martinies last she came away nyne nyts befoir term at which time she left the said Patrik Mackenzie in Isobell Dicks houss who had bein thair three or four nights befoir she came away, that she had sein him dyvers times thair, and knew him and had spoken with him.

Resaved be me Mr James Miller clerk, from Mr William Bell for the Bursar

of Theologie - - - - - - - - - - -	4	Merks
Item from Mr Thomas Melville - - - - - - - - -	8	,,
Item from Burntiland for Burser and Clerk fie - - - - - -	17	,,
Item from Dysert for the Burser - - - - - - - -	18	,,

DYSERT, *Januarii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moreis, clerk to the Synodall Assemblie of Fyffe, sent the copie of the book of the Acts of Assemblie, and wrote for his clerk fie whereof the clerk delyverit to his messenger who brought the book and letter 16 merks for eight kirks whilk he had resaved.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Wilkie handled the Cowmonhead *De Interpretatione Scripturae* and susteined disputations thairupon and is approved of the brethren.

The brethren appoynts ane edict to be served at the Kirk of Burntiland for admission of the said Mr Andro Leslie as Minister at the said Kirk upon the threttie day of this instant and the nixt day to appoynt who shall preache thair at the said admission. The said day also Collonell Leslie and the Lairds of Auchmowtie and Kirkforther desyred that Mr Frederik Carmichael might be transported from

Kennoquhie to Markinche. Whereupon James Archbald of Blackhall objectit that the parochiners of Kennoquhie might be hard for thair interest. So the commissioners of Markinche wer appoyntit be the brethten to bring ane commission subscryvit be the haill heritors of the paroche the nixt day and appoyntit the parochiners of Kennoquhie to compeire the nixt day the 23 of this instant that thair reasons might be hard and considered. Compeired Symon Adamson and Janet Laying in the parochine of Weyms, trelapse in fornication, in sackcloth and resaved thair first injunctions: to satisfie as adulterers and were remitted to the sessioun of Weyms.

DYSERT, *Januari* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter was resaved direct from the nobilitie desyreing the brethren to deale with thair parochiners who had not subscryvit the covenant to doe it, whereupon the brethren appoynts Mr John Moncriefe Minister at Kingorne to goe to the Lairds of Balmowto to deale with them to subscryve the covenant and Sr. Georg Hamiltowne to goe with him. The brethren appoynts thair meitting the nixt day to be at Burntiland for resaving of Mr Andro Leslie Minister thair and appoyntit Mr Robert Cranstown Moderator to preache thair. Hadrian Buard Frenchman being ordained be the sessioun of Dysert to acknowledge his fault publicklie in the Kirk of Dysert for ane ryot committed be him thair appealed to the Presbytrie alledging him to be wronged. The brethren thinks he hes not weill appealed and thairfoir remitts him to the sessioun of Dysert. Mr Georg Gillespie payit 12 Merks for the Burser of Theologie and tuo merks for the Clerk to the Synod. The heretors of the parochine of Kennoquhie compeirand gave in ane supplication to the brethren desyreing that if thair Minister Mr Frederik Carmichael salbe transportit from them to Markinche that in that caice they may have Mr Thomas Hogg to be thair minister.

The brethren assents to thair supplicatioun. Mr Frederik Carmichael protests that he gett no wrong and that nothing be done therein to his prejudice. Isobell Dick being thryse sowmonit to heir witness resaved aganest hir for proveing hir to have transgressed the act given out aganest Dysert, July 25, called, and not compeirand, she is ordained to be sowmonit to heir sentence pronounced aganest hir and to be ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress.

A letter direct from the Presbytrie of Edr dcsyreing a publik fast to be kept upon the 2 day of Februarii, whilk was agreed to be the haill brethren.

BURNTILAND *Januarii* 30.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie being convened at Burntiland for resaveing of Mr Andro Leslie Minister of the said Kirk Mr Robert Cranstown Moderator preached upone the 1 Epistle to Timothie Chap. 9 17. The Edict was returned indorsat. The whilk day also after sermon endit Mr Andro Leslie being recommendit be the Moderator to the parochine of Burntiland and being frequentlie convened the Bailies and Elders of the said Burgh resaved Mr Andro verie willinglie be taking him be the hand also the haill brethren gave unto him the ryt hand of

fellowship who promeised fidelitie and diligence in his calling be upholding of his hands. Isobell Dick being sowmonit to heir sentence pronounced aganest hir called, and not compeireing: ordaines Mr Georg Gilespie to proceid with citations aganest hir. Ane uther letter was sent from the Presbytrie of Edr to provoke and stirr up to amendment of lyff and to deale earnestlie with God for success to the business in hand and to pray for the commissioners who ar direct to his Matie. Mr John Moncriefe reported that he went to Balmowto to have spoken with the Lairds bot could not meitt with them being absent.

They appoyntit him to goe againe and to tak Mr William Bell with him. Absents the last day excused. The brethren resolves to begin and visit all the kirks of thair Presbytrie and to begin the nixt day at Kirkcaldie and so furth orderlie and appoynts Mr Mungo Law to preache thair and due Edict to be served to that effect, bot in respect that Mr John Chalmer is to handel the Cowmonhead who gave in *Theses* to that effect, the visitation of Kirkcaldie is continewed till Thursday come eight dayes. Mr Andro Auchinleck commissioner from St Androis craveing Mr Mungo Law to be transportit from the Kirk of Dysert to the Kirk of Forgane within the Presbytrie of St Androis, the brethren continews thair anser to the nixt where the parochiners of Dysert ar appoyntit to compeire and be hard. Mr John Chalmer shew that he had chargit Sir Georg Bosuell to obey the decreit in makeing his repentance. The brethren appoynts him to proceid.

DYSERT, *Februari* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts Mr John Moncriefe and Mr William Bell and with them the Lairds of Bogie and Blaikburn to goe to Balmowtie to deale with them anent subscryving of the covenant. Compeired Isobell Dick and also compeired Margart Paterson who being admittit witness aganest hir *ex superabundanti* who deponed that she being in Isobell Dicks houss serving at Newersines hard Patrik Mackenzie in the houss above in the laft for the space of eight dayes and that the said Isobell went up to him when she pleased. The Presbyterie having it clerlie proven befoir them that the said Isobell has transgressed the act discharging hir the said Patrik his companie, ordeanes hir to satisfie as ane adultress. Anent the transportation of Mr Mungo Law from Dysert to the Kirk of Forgown the Presbyterie having hard all the reasons of Mr Andro Auchinleck commissioner from the Presbytrie of St. Androis as also reasons proponed be the Laird of Nawghton commissioners from the said Paroshe as also the reasons alledgit be the town and parochine of Dysert for his not removeing and considering the samyne thinks the reasons for his not transportation more valid then any proponed in the contrair and thairfoir cannot condescend that he salbe transportit.

John Mutray in the paroche of Markinche trilapse in fornication craveing his bairne to be baptised, the Presbytrie grants thairto, he finding sufficient cawtione for his satisfaction. Mr Thomas Melvill is appoyntit the Cowmonhead nixt. As also the visiting to goe fordward and the nixt day to visit the Kirk of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 13.

The visitation of the Kirk of Kirkcaldie holden within the paroche Kirk thairof upon the 13 day of Februarii instant be Mr Robert Cranstown, Moderator, the Parson of Dysert, Mr John Moncriefe, Minister at Kingorne Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert, William Bell, Minister at Auchtertul, John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, John Smith, Minister at Leslie, Frederik Carmichel, Kennoquhie, James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie. The whilk day the edict was returned indorsat. All persons who had anything to object aganest the minister, reider, or scholemaster being thryse called upon at the Kirk durr, none compeired. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryell was approven in thair lyves and callings. The minister was approven be the haill Eldership in his lyff and doctrin catechiseing, visiting of the sick, and in the order of his houss bot to be admonished to be more cairful for reconcileing of his people when variance aryses amongst them as also it is declaired that he teaches bot once upon the Sabbath and upon the Tuysday. It is requyred that the Communion be more tymeouslie when the people ar readiest at home. The scholemaster was compleaned upon that he was verie negligent in his office and unwaiting and desyred to be admonishit to be more cairful and to wait on better and come sooner to the schole in the morning and to be more gentle in his correcting the bairnes. The minister called in againe being demandit why he preaches bot once upon the Sabbath, he anserit, alledgeing that he was no further oblished and that he would not bear a burden that was due to his colegue and not get benefite thairfoir. Anent the reconciliation he anserit and verified that they did not acquaint him with these things bot did agree among themselfs being jealous of him and urged the Elders to give him ane instance.

The Moderator declaired that they did not speak it to quarrell it be instance bot commendit it to the Presbytrie to be furthered in time comeing. The brethren not being satisfied with his anser for teaching bot once upon the Sabbath so long as his abilatie could serve him and willed him rather (his health not serving) to leave his teaching upon the week day and to teach tuise upon the Sabbath and ordered him so to doe. The scholemaster was charged and ordeaned to be more caireful in his calling and more gentle in correcting of the bairnes who promeised to ammend what he was compleaned upon. The Elders being removed for thair tryells the Minister commendit the most part of the Elders both in calling and conversation bot compleaned that the paroche was caireless to provide ane helper to him as also that they wer adverse thairfra and that some of the Elders ar cairless in keiping of the session and that he had requested them to keip familie exercise wherein they had bein verie slack hitherto and desyred they might be cairfull in visiting of the sick.

Also the Minister desyred the paroche to deale with some young man for ane interim to teache to them till they be providit with ane sufficient actual Minister. The Elders being returned the Presbytrie proponed the same to them who anserit they could not doe it be themselfs without the heretors of the Paroche bot craved

a time to conserve the samyne who promised to give thair anser thairanent within fyftein dayes.

The Minister shew that thair was ane proceis of witchcraft aganest Margt Douglas not put to ane poynt whilk is appoyntit to be wakened. Also the proceis of William Campbells adultrie to be wakened. Appoynts the Parson of Dysert and Mr John Moncriefe with thair tuo ruleing Elders to visit the session book of Kirkcaldie. Ordaines Mr John Moncriefe to proceid with the censures of the Kirk aganest Georg Thomson. Compeired Margt Brown in Seyfield affirming hir to be with bairne to David Philip in Lewquhat and that it hir fourth fornication: ordained to satisfie as ane adultress, who resaved hir first injunctions.

Compeired David Creigh who refused to give his oath publicklie for cleirilng of himself anent the bairne brought foorth be Kathren Edmond bot referrs the samyne to hir oath: they ar remittit to this day eight dayes.

The Kirk of Kingorne is appoyntit to be visited the nixt Thursday and ane edict to be direct thither for that effect.

KINGORNE, *Februarii* 20.

The visitation of the Kirk of Kingorne holden within the Kirk of the samyne upon the Twentie day of Februarii 1640 be Mr William (Nairn) Minister of Dysert thair Moderator chosen for the time, Mr Mungo Law Minister thair, Mr Andro Leslie Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Bell Minister at Auchtertul, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melville, Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Frederick Carmichel Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr John Moncriefe Minister of the said Kirk of Kingorne. Mr Wm. Nairn preached Acts 20, 28. Absents—Mrs James Symeson, Mr Robert Cranstown Moderator, and Mr John Smith.

Edict returned indorsat. The Minister and Reider being removed for thair tryells the Elders thank God for them both in thair lyffs and callings, onlie they regrate that the Reider cannot attend the schole so as is requisite in respect of the distractions of his calling as Reider. The Presbytrie desyres them to get ane good Doctor who may attend upon the schole in his absence, also all persons being warnit at the Kirk doore who had anything to object aganest Minister or Reider to compeire and be hard, none compeired. The Elders likewayes being removed for thair tryells the Minister thanks God for them and approved them both in thair lyffs, calling, and attendance and concurrence in holding hands to dicipline, onlie found fault with some landward Elders who ar farr and who neither comes to the Kirk nor Session. Also all persons being called upon at the Kirk doore who had anything to object aganest any of the Elders, none compeired.

Appoynts Mr Andro Leslie Minister at Burntiland and Mr William Bell Minister at Auchtertul and with them William Meikeljohn Bailie at Burntiland to visit the sessioun book of Kingorne. The brether appoynts Mr William Nairn and Mr Mungo Law, Ministers at Dysert to goe to Mr Alexander Scrimgeors dochter and to speak to hir anent the quyting of the Kirk Manss.

The Ministers reportit that they went to the Laird of Balmowto and dealt

with him anent the repairing of his Ile in the Kirk who promeissed to causs repaire it with all diligence whilk if he doe not they will tak it to thair consideration. The brethren appoynt the Kirk of Dysert to be visited the nixt day and Mr John Moncriefe to preache thair. Compeired David Creigh and Kathren Edmond anent the bairne brought foorth be the said Kathren whilk she affirms to be the said Davids, constantlie affirming the samyne: they ar both sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire in Dysert the nixt day. Compeired Elspett Thomson trelapse in fornication who is ordained to satisfie as ane adultress in Auchtertul where the offence was committed: resaved hir first injunctions. Reference to the Assemblie anent ane uniform order to be keipt be all touching the satisfaction of adulterers.

Sir John Scott of Scottstarvet presented ane supplication to the brethren, craveing that his rowme of Inchkeirie whilk is so farr distant from thair paroshe kirk of Aberdour and so ewest to Kingorn may be annexit to the paroche of Kingorn and severed from Aberdour. The brethren remitts the said mater to be entreeted of at the Synod. Ane letter was exhibit in the Presbytrie written be Mr Andro Michaelsone to be sent to his brother Mr John in Ingland wherein he writes verie maliciouslie anent the covenant calling it ane hipocriticall and traitrous covenant.

The names of the Elders of Kingorne paroshe—

My Lord of Scott-tarvett
David Brown of Vicarsgrange
David Bosuell of Glassmonth
David Betson of Carden
Patrik Bosuell of Piteadie
James Lychtone of Craigencat Mill
John Moyses in Glassmonth
James Symson in Pitkenie
Michael Meldrum in Baberton
Robert Dougall in Banchrie
John Moyses in Tyrie
Thomas Oswald in Brigtowne
John Michaelson in Craigencat
David Mitchell in Boglillie Easter
Patrik Moses in Norther Piteadie
Thomas Herd in Begg
Thomas Lessels in Coldean

For the Town—

Henri Shanks	Baillies	William Smeaton	William Moyses
John Bosuell		Simon Robertson	David Cunningham
James Robertson		Thomas Wallace	Robert M'Gulane
Mr Robert Cunningham		David Gourlay	John Robertson
Alexander Bruce		William Gourlay	James Hugone
James Laquhair		John Smeatone	John Crystie
Robert Orrok		Martin Shanks	Simon Barrie
Walter Duncan		Andro Kay	John Bruce
George Gourlay		John Bosuell	John Anderson

DYSERT, *Februarii* 27, 1640.

The visitation of the Kirk of Dysert holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 27 day Februari by Mr John Moncriefe Minister at Kingorne, Mr Andro Leslie Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at

Kinglessie, Mr John Smith Minister at Leslie, and Mr Frederik Carmichaell Minister at Kennoquhie, Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law Ministers at the said Kirk of Dysert. Absents—Mr Robert Cranstowne and Mr Georg Gilespie, who ar both sick.

Mr John Moncrieffe preached Text Luke 12, 42. Mr James Symeson is chosen Moderator for the tyme.

Edict returned indorsat with the names of the Elders. The ministers and reider being removed for thair tryells the Elders gave tham ane gud testimonie and approved them both in thair lyves and docrtin, onlie regratted that the schole wantit a good Doctor whilk the brethren recommendit to the care of the Magistrates. Also all persons being warnit at the Kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the ministers or reider, none compeired. The Elders lykewayes being removed for thair tryells the ministers praised God for them and approved them both in thair lyves and calling in attending the Sessioun and halding hand to dicipline bot regratted that thair were some elders in landward who came seldome to the Sessioun.

Also all persons who had anything to object aganest any of the elders being charged and called upon at the kirk durr to compeire and be hard, none compeired.

The Presbytrie thinks expedient that where thair is tuo Ministers at one Kirk they sall preache without distinctioun of superioritie and inferioritie *per vices* whilk they ordain to be observed in all tyme comeing whereunto the Parson of Dysert most willinglie agreed. The sessioun book of Dysert recommendit to Mr James Symesone to be tryed be him, and Bogie with him. Absents the last day thair excuses hard and allowed. It is ordained that these who commits fornication whidder they mary or not if the slander be befoir the contract that they sall satisfie as fornicators.

Compeired John Shorteous craveing ane mitigation of the sentence given out aganest him. The Presbytrie refuses the samyne. The Presbytrie ordeanes to be caused sowmond Mr John Michaelsone and his sone Mr Andro to anser for thair wilfull refuseing to subscryve the covenant as also to sowmon Mr Andro for his malicious writting aganest the covenant, calling it ane hipocritical and traitirous covenant. The Laird of Bogie, Mr John Moncrieffe and Mr William Bell, reportit that thay went to Balmowto as they wer appoyntit and spak with the old Laird anent the subscryveing of the covenant who ansered that when he sould heare from the Commissioners he sould give the brethren contentment. The young Lairds anser was that when he had exped some business betwixt him and some others he sould give his anser.

Mr Andro Leslie reportit that thair wer sundrie old slanders not tane order with demanding quhat should be done anent them. It was anserit that these faults whilk wer verie old whose slanders wer worne away might be passed over bot these that wer committed within thir four or fyve years whose slanders wer fresh sould be taine order with. Ordeans to tak order with some persones in Dysert, one who had begged hir milk from hir neighbour for God sake, another who cownselled and the 3 that gave it by praying thryse God send you your milk agane by causeing them

all mak thair publik repentance. Anent Cristian Gibb in the paroshe of Kennoquhie who has behaved hirself slanderouslie with thrie sundrie men at dyvers tymes: ordained the woman and all the men to be cited befoir the Sessioun of Kennoquhie with power to Mr Frederik Carmichael to cause cite them and put the mater to a tryell. Ordeanes David Creigh ather to tak with the bairne allegit upon him be Kathren Edmund or to purge himself be his great oath befoir the haill congregation. Mr Thomas Melvill excuses himself that he cannot handel the Cowmonhead the nixt day because of sundrie weightie and necesser distractions. Ordeanes to meit the nixt day at Kirkcaldie at thair ordinar exercise where the Parson of Dysert is to exercise and Mr Mungo Law to add.

Appoynts the meitting to be at Auchtertule this day fyftein for visitation of that Kirk.

The names of the Elders of Dysert—

My Lord Sinclair	Robert Symeson	William Symeson
Sr Geo. Hamiltoun	Georg Gay	Robert Yule
David Setone	James Law	David Tode
David Crystie	Patrik Murray	Andro Flinker
John Gay	Georg Lundie	Thomas Coke
David Symeson	Andro Thomson	Robert Blaik
Alexr. Symeson	Robert Lessles	Willlam Melvin
William Symeson	William Gay	David Dowie
Andro Reddie	William Gibbon	Crispian Swyne
Thomas Richard	Duncan Weyms	James Thomson
Mr Geo. Law	David Smith	Georg Gibb
David Corsall	Georg Hart	Crispian Swyn
Robert Corsall	Arch. Halkhead	Robert Kedie
Crispius Swyne	John Mackay	James Guthrie
Arch. Robertson	Thomas Murray	Georg Scott
Alexr. Crystiesone	Patrik Kay	

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 5, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Leslie reportit that he had visitit the Sessioun book of Kingorn and approved it. Also Mr William reportit that he had visited the sessioun book of Kirkcaldie and approved it bot found fault that thair wer not yearlie or quarterlie compts of the poore folks silver resaveing and distributing etc. Mr John Michaelsone and Mr Andro being sowmonit to compeire this day called: compeired not. The precept being returned indorsat, they ar to be sowmonit to appeare at Auchtertule the nixt day pro 2. Cristian Gibb in Kennoquhie is ordeaned to purge hirself publiklie be hir great oath of hir slanderons behaviour with thrie sundrie men. The act maid at Kennoquhie restraineing the selling of wyne or aile upon the Sabbath afternoone ordeaned to be maid general to strike upon all persones. The Presbytrie ordeanes that no money be tane from any person to buy them from makeing thair repentance.

AUCHTERTULE, *March* 12.

The visitation of the Kirk of Auchtertule, holden within the Parish Kirk of the samyne upon the 12 day of March instant be Mr William Nairn, thair chosen Moderator for the tyme, Mr John Moncriefe, minister at Kingorn; Mr Andro Leslie, minister at Burntiland; Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran; Mr Thomas Melvill, minister of Kinglassie; Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Portmoak; Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie; Mr Frederik Carmichaell, minister at Kennoquhie; and Mr William Bell, minister at the said kirk, and Mr James Sympson, minister at Kirkcaldy, who preached the said day—Text, Psalm iv. 9.

The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders. Ruleing elder present the laird of Bogie. The minister being removed for his tryell, the elders praised God for him, and approved him both in his lyfe and conversation, and in his doctrin and ither poynts of his calling, except that he preached bot once on the Sabbath, whilk the brethren injoynes him to emend; he promeises so to doe.

All persons called at the Kirk dure to object against him; none compeired.

The whilk day also the elders being removed for thair tryell the minister praised God for them, and approved them both in thair lyves and conversation, as also in thair concurrance with him in holding hard to discipline, but regraited that he could not gett a schole amongst them for laik of maintenance. Also all persones being called upon at the Kirk dure that hav anything to object against any of the said elders to compeir and be hard, none compeired. The elders being called in againe, the Presbytrie recomends to them the care of ane schole for the traineing up of thair youth. They all promeise to contribute for the maintenance of a schole.

Absents Mr Robert Cranstowne and Mr Georg Gillespie who ar both sick, also Mr Mungo Law who is in Cuper at the Presbytrie thair. The Presbytrie appoynts thair meitting this day eight dayes to be at Burntiland for visitation of that Kirk and this day fyftein dayes to visit the Kirk of Kinglessie. Sowmonds returned indorsat shewing that Mr John Michaelsone and Mr Andro his sone wer sowmonit for the second tyme, called: compeired not, bot the said Mr John sent his excuse of his absence be reason of his age and inabilitie to travel so farr whilk was accepted and the Clerk to write to him that they will meitt at Burntiland the nixt day bot withall to send him a third sowmons to compeire befoir them the said day. The brethren thinks it expedient that Kathren Edmonds bairne be refused babtisme for a tyme till they try hir further.

The Minister of Kirkcaldie reportit that David Creigh had purged himself of the said bairne be his great oath the last Sabbath befoir the congregatioun.

Compeired James Stirk and Marjorie Pratt, she affirming befoir him that he lay with hir twyse, the first tyme the Sunday befoir Pask, and the second the day after, he denying constantlie that he was in hir houss this tuelf moneths bygone bot once with hir own brother. Both sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day in Burntiland. The Sessioun book to be visited be Mr John Chalmer and Mr Thomas Melvill.

Ruleing Elders present, Bogie and Halyairds. Elders of Auchtertule—Mr

Andro Skeen of Auchtertule, John Boswell of Kirktowne, John Crawford, Francis Rolland, James Burnlie, John Meldrome, John Wylie, Alex. Lindsay, James Law, John Stocks.

BURNTILAND, *March* 19, 1640.

The visitation of the kirk of Burntiland halden within the paroshe of the samyne upon the 19 day of March be Mr Robert Cranstowne Minister at Skunie Moderator, Mr William Nairn and Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert, Mr James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie, Mr John Moncrieffe, Minister at Kingorn, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, (who preached the said day Text, Acts 26, 16), Mr Thomas Melvill Minister at Kinglessie, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, Mr Frederik Carmichael Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr Andro Leslie, Minister of the said Kirk of Burntiland. The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. All persons called upon at the Kirk durr who had any thing to object aganest the minister, reider and scholemaster to compeire and be hard, none compeired. The minister, reider and scholemaster being removed for thair tryells the elders praise God for them all and approved them both in thair callings and in thair lyves and conversation. The elders being removed the minister praised God for them and approved them both in thair lyves and conversations and for thair concurrence with him in holding hand to discipline and good order. The sessioun book is appoyntit to be visited be Mr John Moncrieffe, Mr Mungo Law and Mr David Browne. Ruleing elders present, the Lairds of Inchdairnie and David Browne of Vicarsgrainge.

Compeired Mr John Michaelson sometymes the minister of the said kirk who being demandit why he did not subscryve the covenant ansered he had reasons for him whilk he offered to give in writt whilk the brethren wold not resave becaus it was past *in rem judicatam* alreadie. Then he sought a time to resolve himseif whilk was to Lambes. The brethren pitying him in respect of his age and infirmitie gives him Witson except they themseffs be otherways urged and straited. Compeired Mr Andro Michaelson for writting so maliciouslie aganest the covenant calling it an hypocritical and traitorous covenant whilk he confessit he wrote and acknowledgit the letter (showen to him) to be his own.

The brethren refers him to the nixt Synodal Assemblie to be holden in Kirkcaldie on the 7 day of April nixt to come and sowmonds him *apud acta* to compeire thair to anser etc.

Compeired Marjorie Pratt and James Stirk, the said Marjorie affirmeing the said James to be hir bairnes father he denyeing that he was in hir houss thir tuelf moneths byegone except once with hir own brother. She affirmed that she should prove that he was twyse and designes witnesses for proveing the samyne—Ellen Spens and Janet Heggie. He referrs himself to tuo witnesses *simpliciter* Mr James Symeson.

The whilk day Isobell Dick in Weyms being sowmonit to give obedience to the kirk of the Weyms for hir slanderous adulterous behaviour with Patrick

Mackenzie being warrnit be the sessioun thairto having given no obedience called: compeired not: is appoyntit to be sowmonit io the nixt day pro 2. Mr Alexr. Scott Minister of Melross presented ane supplicatioun ftom the Synodal Assemblie of Mers and Teviotdale for Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie to be transplantit from Leslie to Maxtone. The Presbyterie promeises that so soon as they have spoken all parties having interest to writt to them thair anser. The kirk of Auchterdirran is appoyntit to be visited this day fyftein dayes, the kirk of Kinglessie is to be visited this day eight dayes and Mr Andro Leslie to preache thair.

The names of the heretors and elders of the Paroche of Burntiland.

For the Landward—

The Laird of Halhill	Henri Stennous in Denerie
Mr James Phin of Grange	Nicol Dewer in the Seamills
Gilbert Robertson of Newbigging	John Gray in Geddsmill
Georg Howgown in Newbigging	John Stocks in Grange

For the Burgh—

William Meikeljohn	Bailies	Hew Barclay	William Browne, baxter
George Gairdens		Robert Hugeon	Henri Paterson
John Bosuell		John Meldrum	James Drysdall
Andro Watson		Alexander Dick	Andro Creigh
Thomas Bosuell		Andro Bennett	Robert Angus
Robert Richardson		Robert Galbraith	Patrik Gedd
Richard Ross		William Cuper	Georg Martin
David Gourlay		Henrie Watersone	William Browne
David Hepburn		James Reidie	William Robertson
Patrik Angus		John Dryburgh	Robert Primrose
Thomas Dewar			

March 24.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson having commission from the Presbyterie to examine Janet Heggie and Helen Spens went with the clerk and examined them who deponed as follows:—Janet Heggie deponed that upon ane Sunday at even hours she hard James Stirk and other tuo men with him in Merjorie Pratts houss whom the said Merjorie Pratt said was James Stirk and his brother and hir own brother, bot she saw him not. The whilk day also Helen Spens deponed that upon ane Sunday she saw James Stirk and Merjorie Pratts brother goe into Merjorie Pratts houss together and the durr was steakit after them and upon the morne in the morining she saw ane man come out of the said Merjories hous and she speired who it was, and the said Merjorie said it was hir brother whom she wold not suffer to goe home that nyt it was so late.

March 26.

The visitation of the paroshe kirk of Kinglessie halden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 26 day of March, be Mr Robert Cranstowne, Minister at Skunnie, Moderator; Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert, Mr John Moncrieffe,

Minister at Kingorn, Mr Andro Leslie, Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Powtie, and Mr John Smith, Ministers at Leslie ; Mr Frederik Carmichael, Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at the said Kirk. Mr Andro Lesslie preached the said day Text 1, Thess. 3, 6, 7. The Edict was returned indorsat with the names of the Elders.

Ruleing Elders present the Lairds of Arnett, Caskiebarrien, Balbeddie, Captaine Watson. Ministers absent Mr William Nairne, Mr James Symeson.

The Minister and Reider being removed for thair tryells the Elders praise God for them and approved them both in thair callings and in thair lyves and conversations. The Minister and Reider being called in agane and the Elders removed for thair tryells the Minister praised God for them and approved them both in thair callings and in thair lyves and conversations, and in thair concurrence with him in holding hand to discipline, but regraites that some of them and of the paroshiners who duells far of keips not the Kirk weill.

All persons being called at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the Minister or Reider to compeire and be hard : none compeired.

The Minister and Scholemaster regraits that thair is no hous for the Schole nor the Scholemaster. The Presbytrie remitts the cair of that to the Heretors and Elders. Reference to the Assemblie that thair may be ane general Act maid for the restraining of Kirk burrials.

Isobell Bosuell recommendit by the brethren to the Heretors of the parochine of Kinglessie. Isobell Dick giving no obedience to the Kirk of Weyms being sowmonit to compeire this day, called, compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. Mr John Smith declaired that he was unwilling to transport from Leslie to Maxtone bot to remain still at Leslie. The brethren desyres the Moderator to write the samyne to the brethren of the nixt ensueing Assemblie at Kelso. The whilk day Mr John Chalmer declaired that he had visited the Sessioun book of Auchtertull and found that the collections for the poore wer bestowit a great part of them upon the reparation of the Kirk. Item that the daite of the mariages within the said parochine ar not bookit. The brethren advises him to amend the last and they ar to advyse anent the first. Mr James Miller reportit that Mr James Symeson and he went and examined the tuo witnesses who had deponed nothing concerning James Kirk and Merjorie Pratt bot that whilk he confessit himself whilk was nothing to the purpose. The said James Stirk is ordained to purge himself be his oath in Kirkcaldie.

David Latrisk trilapse in fornication is ordained to satisfie as ane adulterer. A letter being direct from the Ministers of Edr. for keiping ane fast upon the 12 day of April and the preparation of the said fast to be on the Friday befoir, the brethren appoynted the samyne to be intimate upon the 5 of April in all thair kirks and ordaines the Clerk to writt a copy of the letter and send it to Dunfermline. Mr Robert Melville be his letter craveing ane testimonial of his tryells and approbation of his exercising the Clerk is appoynted to writt the samyne. Mr

John Michaelsone be his letter desyred of the brethren that his sone Mr Andro myt be spared and passed over but any farther censure for that whilk he had written anent the Covenant.

The brethren refuses and continews in thair former judgement. The kirk of Ballingrie is appoynted to be visited the nixt day and Mr Thomas Melville to preache.

Heretors and Elders of Kinglassie.

Sir David Barclay of Collernie	George Todd in Kininmonth
Patrick Kininmouth of that Ilk	David Bosuell of Milldeanes
Robert Brown of Fynmonth	Robert Brown of Fynmonth
Sir David Creighton of Lugton	Mr Robert Ayton of Inchdernie
Mr Robert Ayton of Inchdernie	David Law in Inchdernie
Mr William Wardlaw of Bamul	James Crystie in Gaitmilk
Mr James Schoner of Caskiebarrien	Alexr. Curror in Gaitmilk
Mr Gilbert Clerk of Pitlyocher	Mr James Schoner of Caskiebarrien
Sr Alexr Clerk of Nether Stenton	William Anderson in Caskiebarrien
David Crystie of Over Stenton	Mr Gilbert Park of Pityocher
Julian Hoome of Kinglassie	Thomas Anderson of Pityocher
Janet Watson in Kinglessie	John Inglis in Kinglessie
Margaret Orrok of Pitlochie	James Crystie in Fostertone
Mr Robert Balcanquhall and Mr Robert Nicholson for the East half lands of Pityocher	Georg Dryburgh in the Habtoun of Lugtowne

At Ballingrie, *April* 2, 1640.

The visitation of the kirk of Ballingrie holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 2 day of April be Mr Robert Cranstowne, Moderator, Minister of Skunie, Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook, Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie who preached the said day, Text, Prov. 29, 18.—Mrs Thomas Powtie and John Smith Ministers at Leslie, Mr Frederik Carmichael, Minister at Kennoquhie, and Mr David Anderson, Minister at the said Kirk of Ballingrie.

The edict returned indorsat with the names of the elders.

Ruleing elders present—The Lairds of Arnett, Halyairds, Auchmowtie, and Blair. Ministers absent, Mrs Georg Gilespie, William Nairn, James Symeson, John Moncrieffe, Andro Leslie who sent his excuse whilk was accepted. All persons called at the Kirk durr aganest the minister or elders to compeire and be hard: none compeired.

The minister being removed for his tryells the elders praised God for him and approved him both in his doctrin and in his lyff and conversation onlie regraitted that in respect of his great age and infirmitie he is not now able to preache. The minister called in agane and the elders removed for thair tryells the minister praised

God for them and approved them both in thair callings and concurrence with him in the discipline and also in thair lyves and conversations.

The minister regraitted that thair was a profanation of Sabbath day be ganging of myles. Thair is no kirk buriall heir at all.

Mr John Smith declaired from my Lord Rothes that if the minister be content with ane fellowhelper, the Erle will present one to the place. The minister is content to submitt himself to the brethren anent his maintenance. The parochiners being demandit what they wold bestow upon a fellowhelper they took the mater to advysement. They ar appoynted to give thair anser this day fyftein dayes at the visitation of Auchterdirran. Mr Harie Wilkie is appoyntit to preache at the said kirk and thairafter to follow that order that he who hes his kirk to be visited nixt sall preache. The Laird of Auchmowtie craveing of the Presbytrie that thair myt be some of thair number appoyntit to preache at Markinche to intimat the Fast and preache thair the brethren haveing the necessitie of attending thair own flocks desyres the clerk to writt to Mr William Nairn younger in thair names and to request him to supplie that place the said tuo dayes. Mr John Chalmer reportit that Sr Georg Bosuell had begun his repentance. The whilk day compeired Isobell Dick sheweing that she is willing to give obedience to the Kirk of Weyms bot requested that she should not be urged to confess the cryme of adultrie, bot the slander of adulterie, whilk was granted to hir.

She resaved hir first injunctions and was remitted to hir minister to satisfie. The sessioun book of Ballingrie appoyntit to be visited be Mr John Chalmer, Mr Thomas Melvill, and the Laird of Arnett.

They ar to advyse anent ane man to be Scholemaster and Reider of Dysert to the nixt day. The Laird of Arnett and Mr Thomas Melville appoyntit to visit the kirk manse of Ballingrie. Compeired Henrie Alison adulteror in the paroshe of Auchtertule with Margaret Steinson : resaved his first injunctions.

The brethren being removed *per vices* for thair tryell befoir the Assemblie aither anent thair doctrine or thair lyves and conversation they praise God for other. Mr Thomas Melville and Mr John Chalmer ar appoyntit to meitt with Mr David Anderson and the Erle of Rothess, Chalmerlane, for cleiring of thair compts. Sr David Auchmowtie desyred also for the Erle of Weyms compts.

Mr William Nairn and Mr Robert Cranstowne chosen be the Presbytrie to the Assemblie for the Moderatorship. To meitt this day fyftein dayes at Auchterdirran.

Heretors and Elders of the Paroshine of Ballingrie.

The Erle of Rothess	Thomas Steidman	James Robertson
Mr Alexr. Colville of Blair	John Paterson	Gavin Greig
James Scrimgeor of Gartmoir	Patrik Morton	Robert Meldrum
	Patrick Greig	David Reidie
John Betson of Clunnie		

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 16, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . For chuseing of the Moderator ther wer put in leite, Mr William Nairn Parson of Dysert—Mr Frederick Carmichael Minister at Kennoquhie and Mr John Moncrieffe Minister at Kingorne who by pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator etc. who accepted the said office and promeised fidelitie thairin be uplifting of his hand. Anent securitie for Mr Mungo Law his steipend be the towne and paroshine of Dysert the brethren haveing hard and considered the samyne thinks it sufficient. The Erle of Rothess haveing sent ane letter to the Presbytrie shewing them that the Mr of Balcarrass and Lady Anna Mackenzie having agreed upon their mariage and that his Laday (who had the care of the upbringing of the said Anna since hir bairneage) is very desyrous to see hir maryed befoir hir death that thairfoir it wold please the brethren sieing his Laday is everie hour expecting hir change to give warrand that they may be maryed upon the first proclamation etc. The brethren yeilds to his sute having hard verie good reasons for the samyne. Anent the fast the brethren reportit all that they had keiped the samyne and that they had preparation be doctrin thairto befoir, except Kirkcaldie, wherefoir Mr James Symeson (being now absent) is to be requyrit the reason of the samyne. The brethren haveing sein tuo testimonials dyrect from the Presbyrtie and towne of Dunfermeline in favors of Mr David Balcanquhall who is to be chosen scholemaster and Reider for the paroshe of Markinche the brethren allows of the samyne and apppoynts him to come to the Presbytrie etc.

AUCHTERDIRRAN, *April* 23.

The visitation of the Kirk of Auchterdirran holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 23 day of April be Mr John Moncreif, Minister at Kingorn, Moderator, Mr Andro Leslie, Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr Harie Wilkie, Minister at Portmook who preached the said day Esaii 62, 3. Mr James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie, Mr Robert Cranstown, Minister at Skunnie, Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Willian Nairn, Minister at Dysert, and Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran. The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. Absents—Mrs Frederik Carmichael, Georg Gillespie, Mungo Law. Ruleing elders present for Kirkcaldie, Kingorn, Burntiland, and Auchtertule, with Auchterdirran and Ballingrie. All persons being called upon at the Kirk durr who had anything to object aganest aither minister or elders to compeire and be hard, none compeired. The ministers being removed for thair tryells the elders praised God for them and approved them both in thair doctrin and in thair lyves and conversations, onlie regraitted that they had bot one preaching upon the Sabbath and no certaine day in the weik for catechising. The ministers returned ansered to the first that they used catechiseing on the Sabbath afternoone instead of sermone and to the second that in seid tyme and harvest they cannot get the people to meitt upon ane weik day in special in this troublouss tyme. The brethren recommends the samyne to their greater care and diligence. The elders being removed for thair tryell the ministers praised God for

them and approved them both in thair callings and in lyfe and conversation and in thair concurrence and holding hands to discipline onlie regraitts the want of a scholemaster be reason that some of the heretors will not contribute for a maintenance to a scholemaster. It is thought expedient that Mr Alexander Colvill and Mr Thomas Melvill sall goe to the haill heretors and deale with them that they may contribute for a competent means for a scholemaster. As also recommends to the elders that they keip the kirk twyse everie Sabbath and caus others to doe likewayes. The minister compleanes that the kirkyaird dykes are not built. The brethren recommends that to the heretors. Anent the placeing of the kirk seates the minister declairs that thair is ane submissioun subscryvit be the haill heretors to that effect. The Presbyterie desyres them to put the samyne submissioun to ane poynt betwixt this and Witsonday otherwayes they will doe it themselfs.

Mr Thomas Melvill is appoyntit to visit the sessioun book. Andro Birrell and his wyff appoyntit to live more peaceablie and to duell together otherwayes to be taine order with. Mr James Baxter appoyntit to goe to Markinche the nixt Sunday to preache thair. Mr James Craig is appoyntit to be tryed be Mr John Moncreife and Mr James Symeson for the schole and reidership of Dysert, Andro Arnett, some tyme of Barcaiple recommendit to the charitie of the particular paroshes. The visitation is intermitted for a tyme. Ordeanes Mr James Miller to exercise the nixt day in Kirkcaldie and Mr James Baxter to add, Text John 20, 13.

Heretors and Elders—

James Colvill, Balbeddie	James Betsone	James Todd
Robert Kilgour	John Meldrum	John Wilson
John Knox	James Russell	Andro Ingis
David Laverock	Thomas Dick	William Knox
John Tode		

Heretors—

Erle of Weyms	Laird of Kinninmonth	Laird of Balmowtie
Laird of Babeddie	John Sinclair	James Weyms
Georg Arnett	David Bosuel	Laird of Carden
John Colyear	Sir Georg Bosuell	James Abercrombie
Mr David Scrimgeor	Comisser of St. Androis	George Bosuell of Westmill

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 30, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr James Craigs tryells for the schole of Dysert in respect of Mr John Moncreifs absence and the necessitie of Dysert schole of a master they comitt his tryells to Mr James Symeson and Mr George Gilespie who ar to meitt the morne to that effect. The process anent Margaret Douglas read and is to be considered. David Moreis in the paroshe of Markinche is appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day to that effect. Cristian Gibb in the congregation of Kennoquhie ordeaned to stand thrie dayes in the joggs and to sit upon the stool of publik repentance for curseing hir delator befoir the whole congregatioun quheinas

she should have confessit hir fault and craved pardon for it. And thairfoir it is ordeaned that in all tyme comeing these who sall curse their delators in that kind sall be so used. 10 merks given be the Towne of Burntiland for Andro Arnett sometyme of Barcaple resaved be the clerk. Overtures to be considered anent the voluntar contributioun. Mr Thomas Melvill gave in his *Theses* and is to handell the Cowmonhead the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Maii* 7.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill handled the Cowmonhead *De Decensu Christi Ad Inferos* and had for Text, Act 2. 25, 26, 27, 1 Pet. 3, 19. Doctrin censured and allowed . . . . . It is ordeaned that persons who maries and befoir thair mariage committs fornication if the slander be befoir they be maried whidder befoir the contract or not that they sall sit thrie Sabbath days upon the stool of publick repentance. Mr James Symeson and Mr George Gilespie reportit that they had examined Mr James Craig and finds him able and meitt to teache a Gramer Schole if he use diligence.

The Presbytrie allows that he be resaved to the Schole of Dysert. The brethren thinks it expedient to visit the Kirk of Markinche this day fyftein dayes, and appoynts ane edict to be sent thither for that effect and letters to be sent to some of the Heretors who duels not presentlie within the paroshe to be present the said day. David Moreis being sowmonit called : compeired not : to be sowmoit to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer is appoyntit to preache in Markinche at the visitation. Resaved be the Clerk for the Laird of Barcaple from the Minister of Burntiland 10 Merks. Item from the Minister of Portmook 8 lbs. Item from the Minister of Auchterdirran 4 lbs. Item from the Towne of Dysert 20 lbs. Item from the Minister of Kinglessie 5 lbs. 16 sh. 4d. All delyverit to him be the Clerk as his book bears. David Moreis and Margaret Douglas to be warnit to the nixt day.

Cristian Westwater to be resaved from hir repentance be the Presbytrie at the visitation she sitting upon the stool of repentance the Sabbath befoir and that day for fornication.

MARKINCHE, *Maii* 21.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Markinche holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 21 day of May instant be Mr John Moncrieff, Minister at Kingorne, Moderator, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melville, Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Thomas Powtie, Minister at Leslie, Mr John Smith, Minister thair, Mr Frederik Carmichel, Minister at Kennoquie, Mr Rob Cranstown, Minister at Skunnie, Mr Georg Gillespie, Minister at Weyms, Mr Mungo Law, Minister at Dysert. Mr. John Chalmer preached 1 Peter 21. Absents—Mr William Nairn, Mr James Symeson, Mr Andro Leslie, Mr Harie Wilkie. Edict returned indorsat with the names of the Heretors and Elders.

The whilk day also anent the transportatioun of Mr Frederik Carmichell from the Parochine of Kennoquie and admission of him to the Parochine of Markinche some of the Heretors being scrupellous anent the subscryving of the band for his maintenance and thair scrouples being removed be the brethren they ar content to subscryve the band in thir termes :—

Wee underscryving oblishes us to pay our proportionable part of the stepend condiscendit upon to the Minister presentlie to be admittit ay and whill hee himself be presented to the steipend and entred in payment thairof or els ane other be presented and laufullie admittit thairto and no longer. Whilk band being so drawen up they presentlie subscryvit.

Compeired David Moreis who becaus of Mr James Symesons absence was continewed to the nixt day and sowmonit *apud acta*, to compeir in the kirk of Weyms this day eight dayes.

Mr David Balcanqll Reider and Scholemaster of Markinche is content to submitt himself to be tryed both in his literatur and qualificatioun for the Schole and Kirk of Markinche as Reider.

The Kirk of Weyms is appoyntit to be visited the nixt Thursday and Mr Robert Cranstown Minister at Skunie appoynted to preache thair.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of Markinche.

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WEYMS, *Maii* 29, 1640.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Weyms holden within the paroshe Kirk of the samyne upon the 29 day of Maii be Mr John Moncreif, Minr. at Kingorn, Moderator, Mr Andro Leslie, Minister at Burntiland, Mr William Bell, Minister at Auchtertule, Mr Thomas Melvill, Minister at Kinglessie, Mr John Smith, Minister at Leslie, Mr Frederik Carmichell, Minister at Kennoqhie, Mr Robert Cranstown, Minister at Skunie, who preached the said day Text 1, Peter 5, 1, 2. Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law, Ministers at Dysert, Mr James Symeson, Minister at Kirkcaldie, and Mr Georg Gillespie, Minister at the said kirk.

Edict returned indorsat with the names of the Heretors and Elders.

All persons that had anything to object aganst the minister, reider, or elders being thryse called upon to compeir and be hard : none compeired.

The minister and reider being removed for thair tryells, the elders praised God for them and approved of them in thair callings and in thair lyves and doctrin and conversationes.

The elders being removed for thair tryells the minister praised God for them and approved them in thair lyves and callings. Absent Mr John Chalmer.

Ruleing elders present—The Laird of Auchmowtie, Babirnie, Auchtermairnie, Mr Alexr. Colvill.

The sessioun book given to be visited be Mr Mungo Law. Famlie worshipp recomendit to the parochiners.

Compeired Alexr. Guard and Janet Wilkie his spous for not cohabiting together : ordeaned to adhere under the paine of the censures of the Kirk ; also

John Mitchell and Agnes Walker his spous, also William Lumsdell, and Cristian Robertsone, his spous — both ordeaned to cohabite together under the paine of the censures of the kirk.

Compeired Patrik Ramsay for disobedience to the sessioun: sowmonit *apud acta* to obey the sessioun under the paine of the censures of the kirk.

Compeired Thomas Hillock for disobedience to the Kirk of Kinglessie and fleing therfrom to the Weyms: ordeaned to tak himself to aither of the said tuo paroshes. He taks himself to the paroshe of Weyms. Ordeaned to satisfie the Kirk of Kinglessie and to report ane testimonial from thence of his satisfactioun.

Recomends to the parochiners to get ane doctor to the schole, and some help to the reider.

The whilk day the Lairds of Auchmowtie and Babirnie desyred ane edict to be served at Markinche for transportation of Mr Frederik Carmichell from the Kirk of Kennoquhie to the Kirk of Markinche, whilk was grantit to be served the nixt Sabbath at Markinche for his admissioun, this day fyftein dayes.

Mr David Balcanqll acceptit and admittit be the brethren as reider to the Kirk of Markinche and scholemaster thair.

Mr Mungo Law chosen be the brethren to goe preacher for the regiment, who accepts the samyne with this protestatioun that the brethren supplie his place in Dysert according to the act of Assemblie, whilk was promeised.

The Kirk of Skunie is appoyntit to be visited the next day and Mr Georg Gilespie to preache thair. Edict delyverit for that effect.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of Weyms—

The Erle of Weyms	David Prid	William Clerk
My Lord Elcho	Robert Banes	Andro Watsone
Harrie Weyms	David Crystie	Alexr. Thomsone
Robert Brown	James Walker, Elder	James Swyne
James Chrystie	Thomas Patrik	James Walker, yr.
William Brown	Walter Barker	Alexr. Selkirk
John Rind	Georg Fairlie	John Tomsone
Michael Dron	Patrik Laverok	Thomas Thomson
David Bruce	Alexr. Thomson	Georg Philp
John Colme	David Kedie	William Laverok
Robert Daniell	Henri Fairlie	Andro Potter
Alexr. Mason	Andro Laverok	James Potter
John Dougall	James Cowen	David Swyne
John Blyth	Robert Bennettie	James Thomson
Thomas Currer	John Kedie	John Mackie
Georg Collsall	John Lumsden	Archbald Smith
David Inglis	John Dryburgh	David Beanes
Robert Kedie	David Kedie	Georg Walker
Henrie Dalrymple	Georg Swyne	David Brown
Georg Wilson	Thomas Gowdie	James Small
James Durie	Georg Read	

SKUNIE, *Junii* 4, 1640.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Skunie holden within the paroshe Kirk of the samyne upon the fourth day of Junii be Mr John Moncreif, Moderator, Minister at Kingorne, Mr John Chalmer, Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melville Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Harie Wilkie Minister at Portmook, Mr Frederik Carmichell Minister at Kennoquhie, Mr Georg Gilespie, Minister at Weyms, who preached the said day, Text Rom. 12, 16, 17. Mr William Nairne Minister at Dysert, Mr Mungo Law Minister there. Mr James Symeson Minister at Kirkcaldie and Mr Robert Cranstown Minister at the said kirk of Skunie. Edict returned indorsat with the names of the Heretors and Elders. All persons being called upon thryse at the Kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the Minister, Reider, and Scholemaster or aganest any of the Elders to compeire and be hard: none compeired.

The Minister and Reider being removed for thair tryells the Eldership praised God for them and approved them both in thair calling and in lyfe and conversation bot desyred that the Scholemaster myt waite better upon the Schole.

The Elders being removed for thair tryells the Minister praised God for them and approved them bot desyred that they myt be admonished to keip the Sessioun better and be cairfull to delate delinquents and to keip service.

The Scholemaster regraits that ther ar some who abstracts thair bairnes from the Schole and sends them to Kennoquhie. The brethren recommends order to be taken with that be the Sessioun of the kirk.

Bessie Walwod a charmer in Dysert who hes charmed in many housses in Dysert to be taine to the consideration of the brethren. Resaved from Markinche 10 lbs for the Burser of Theologie. Anent Mr John Michaelsons subscryving of the Covenant whom Mr James his sone-in-law affirms to be willing to subscryve the brethren thinks meitt to consult with the committie in Edr thairanent and in the meantyme appoynts Mr John Moncreif Moderator and Mr Mungo Law to pass to him to deale with him upon what ground he subscryves. Appoynts Mr John Moncrief, Moderator, and Mr Robert Cranstown to goe and appease the Generall anent his opinioun of the Presbytrie.

The brethren appoynts the meitting the nixt day to be at Markinche for resaveing of Mr Frederik Carmichell, Minister thair.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of the Parochin of Skunie.

Sr Alex. Gibson of Durie
Mr Alex. Gibson, Fiar of Durie
William Rig in Athernie
David Weyms of Fingask
Henrie Landalls in Kilmux
James Sibbald in Levin
Archbald Halkhead thair
James Wilkie thair
Robert Hay thair
Andro Williamson thair
Andro Young thair
David Andersone thair
Andro Heryson in Balgrummo
Thomas Geddie in Lethnie
Thomas Jameson in Athernie
Andro Donaldson in Durie-Cottoun
Andro Geddie in Drummaird
David Robertsone in Durie
John Cuper in Lethnie
Robert Mackie in Unstowne
Thomas Gourlay yor in Banbeth
Georg Walker in Athernie

MARKINCHE, *Junii* 11.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie conveined at the kirk of Markinche viz., Mr John Moncrief, Moderator, who preached thair the said day Text John 3, 27. Mr John Chalmer Minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Thomas Melvill Minister at Kinglessie, Mr Harie Wilkie Minister at Portmook, Mr Frederik Carmichell Minister at Kennoquhie, Mr Robert Cranstowne Minister at Skunie, Mr George Gillespie Minister at Weyms, Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law Ministers at Dysert, and Mr James Symeson Minister at Kirkcaldie.

The whilk day the said brethren transported Mr Frederik Carmichell from the Kirk of Kennoquhie and planted him minister of the said kirk of Markinche (who was resaved be the haill elders) and declaired the Kirk of Kennoquhie to be vacand.

The parochiners of Kennoquhie compeireing renewed thair sute anent Mr Thomas Hogg desyreing that the brethren according to thair act, granted to them thairanent, and to that effect desyred ane edict to be served at the kirk of Kennoquhie upon Sunday nixt, for planting the said Mr Thomas Hogg at the said kirk this day fyftein dayes, whilk desyre the whole brethren thought reasonable, and thairfoir most willinglie yielded thairto, and appoyntit the clerk to give them ane edict.

Mr John Moncrief and Mr Mungo Law reportit that they went to Mr John Michaelsone, who refused altogether to subscryve the covenant, saying that he niver was mindit so to doe. He is appoyntit to be sowmonit aither to Dysert or Kirkcaldie aganest the first day of meitting at any of the kirks.

Mr Georg Gilespie reportit that Mr Frederik Carmichaell and Mr Thomas Hogg had agreed anent all compts.

Anent Bessie Wallwod a charmer in Dysert, who hes used hir charms in many houses, it is thought meitt be the brethren that thair be a publik humilitatioun in Dysert, and that the weightines of the sin be schawen to them, and how greatlie God is displeased thairwith, that they be the more stirred up to repent and abhor that sine in time comeing, and that intimation be maid thairof also, in the rest of the kirks within the Presbyterie.

Compeired Margaret Douglas to be confrontit with David Moreis, he being called, compeired not: ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Margaret Douglas gave in ane supplication humblie craveing the mater to be put to ane point. She is content that David Moreis his oath be taine, excepts not aganest, bot wishes him to tell the truth. Deferred till the nixt day.

Thinks meitt that the Generall be dealt with be word, so soon as it can be convenientlie done be Mr John Moncrief, Moderator, and Mr Robert Cranstown.

Anent the voluntar contribution, it is thought meitt that thair may be so much advanced of it as will pay these souldiers of fortune, who hes wantit thair pay thir tuo or thrie moneths bygone, whilk extend to 360 merks. The brethren ar content to give so much and to deteyne the rest in thair hands till some cowmon courss be taine with all.

Effie Laws nurss, and hir bairne to be advysit anent, aganest the nixt day.

Question proponit be Mr John Moncrief, minister at Kingorne, if they may

lawfullie use some means for the maintenance of ane doctor to the schole out of the kirk box. Anserit he might do so, seeing it is pious uses.

Appoynts the kirk of Portmook to be visited the nixt Thursday, and Mr Frederik Carmichell to preache thair.

Junii 19.

The visitation of the Kirk of Portmook holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be the whole brethren of the Presbytrie, except the Parson of Dysert, whose absence being both lawfull and necessarie, was excused. Mr Frederik Carmichell preached the said day; Text 1, Cor. 4, 1. Ruleing elders all present except John Colyear who was in Cuper at the meitting thair. Edict was returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. All persones being thryse called at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest aither minister or elders to compeire and be hard, none compeired.

The minister being removed for his tryell, the elders praised God for him, and approved him heartilie, both in his calling, doctrin, and in his lyff and conversatioun.

The Elders also being removed the Minister praised God for them and approved them both in thair callings and in thair concurrence with him and in thair conversatiouns.

The whilk day a letter being sent from Edinburt for chuseing commissioners for the Generall Assemblie to be halden at Aberdein the last Tysday of Julii as also for a publik fast to be intimate the nixt Sabbath in all kirks and celebrate the Sabbath following thairafter for the blissing of God on this expedition etc.: appoyntit to be obeyit.

The Minister and Elders of the paroshe of Portmook regrateing the uncommodiousnes of the Kirk of Portmook both in respect of the place (as is notour) as also in respect of the quantitie whilk is so litill that it cannot conteyne the parochiners and the ruinousnes thairof the brethren taking the samyne to thair consideratioun referrs the samyne to the first Assemblie whidder Generall or provincial of Fyfe.

Compeired David Moreis, witness anent Margaret Douglas, admittit and deiple sworne, deponed that his Umquhill Master David Turnbull and he being goeing in the morning to the feild to spread mukk hee wakened the said Margaret at his Masters command and that he fell not sick ten dayes afterhead and that the said Margaret com niver to him nor tuke him be the hand (as was reported) and that he niver drank with hir bot that she com in one day to ane houss of Kirkcaldie where he was and sate doun upon hir bear knies aud prayed him to tell the truth whilk was a long tyme afterhand.

The commissioners who wer appoynted to speak with the Generall when he was heir declaired that they knew not that he was heir till he was gone.

Mr Mungo Law and Mr Georg Gilespie reported that they went to the meitting at Cuper and shew that anent the voluntar contribution.

They desyred onlie to borrow so much of it and to give band for it as to supplie a present necessitie viz, 3600 Merks to pay these Officiars of fortoun heir in Fyfe to whom they wer obliged so much. The brethren agrees thairto.

Ordeanes Effie Law in Kirkcaldie and the woman in the Weyms who hes the foond bairne to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

It is ordeaned that none resave aither nurses or other servands to service nor any straungers aither servands or to houss without testimonials and that the said act be intimate in all kirks. Anent the admissioun of ministers it is appoyntit to follow the Book of Discipline. Anent the oath to be taine, referred to the nixt provincial Assemblie. Anent old Balmowto his subscryving of the Covenant they ar to direct tuo brethren to him. Anent Balmowtos dask in Auchtertule kirk appoynts Mr William Bell and Mr John Chalmer to goe to Halyairds to requyre him to doe nothing thairanent.

The whilk day also Mr David Andersone, Minister of Balingrie, earnestlie requested the brethren to help to provyd for him ane fellowhelper. Referrs the said mater to the nixt day.

It is granted be the brethren that dureing this tyme of warr persons may be maryit who wer goeing to service in the warrs without thryse proclamation preciselie as also that delinquent dyet in that caise may be schortened and the persons resaved.

Cristian Ramsays claime reimitted to the nixt day.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of the kirk of Portmook.

Sr Michael Arnett of that Ilk	Robert Kinnell	Robert Wyllie
Wm. Douglas of Kirknes	David Whyte	Patrik Robertsone
David Balfour of Bellow	Thomas Bryde	John Stocks
Henrie Crawfuird of Pourmill	Robert Arnett	John Smyne
Georg Bruce	Walter Law	John Roberstone
Malcolm Young	Georg Bickertone	Andro Beath,
John Davidson	James Bayne	John Law.
John Low		

KENNOQUHIE, *Junii* 25.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbythrie viz. Mr John Moncrief, minister at Kingorne, Moderator, Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Andro Leslie, minister at Burntiland, Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie, Mr Frederik Carmichell, minister at Markinche, Mr Robert Cranstown, minister at Skunie, Mr William Nairne, minister at Dysert, and Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie, conveinning at the said kirk of Kennoquhie, resaved Mr Thomas Hogg, minister at the said kirk, according to the Book of Discipline. Mr Robert Cranstown preached the said day and had for Text, Heb. 13, 17.

Compeired Isobel Burne in Kennoquhie discharged to haunt James Barclayes companie with whom she is suspect of insest under the paine to be holden as ane insestuous woman.

The whilk day Cristian Gibb being suspect of fornication at the least, convict of slanderous behaviour with sundry men is appoyntit to obey the decreit given out aganest hir.

Ruleing elders present—Athernie, Auchtermairnie, Fynmonth, Mr Alexander Colvill, Bruntown chosen for Markinche, and (he being absent) Bandon, David Symson of Monturpie for Dysert, and in his absence William Symson or James Guthrie.

Mr Georg Gilespie appoyntit to preache in Dysert the nixt Sabbath for Mr Mungo Law. Mr John Moncrief, Mr William Bell, and Mr Georg Gilespie, chosen commissioners for the Generall Assemblie to be holden at Aberdein. Absents—Mrs James Symson, William Bell, Harie Wilkie. It is concluded be the brethren that for cowmon affairs belonging to the Presbyterie, that absence salbe no excuse for absents to quit them from burdens.

Athernie is chosen ruleing elder commissioner to the Generall Assemblie.

Mr John Chalmer reported that the old Laird of Balmowto is willing to subscryve the covenant. It is thought expedient that he should come the nixt Thursday to Dysert. Ordeanes Mr John Chalmer to sowmon Sr Georg Bosuell to proceed in makeing his repentance. Appoynts Mr Thomas Hogg and Mr Thomas Melvill, and with them the Laird of Fynmonth to goe to Markinche and visit the ministers manss thair, and mak thair report the nixt day. Mr James Baxter to ad to the exercise the nixt day: Text 20, 23 at Dysert.

DYSERT, *Julii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the act produced be the laird of Halyairds from the Sessioun of Auchtertule to the Presbytrie for removeing of seats possessed be strangers in kirks, and that the act itself being onlie generall, the Presbyterie having considered the act itself, both in the mater thairof and also in the formalitie of it, and haveing also hard the minister of Auchtertule for not subscryveing thairof in Sessioun, but willing it to be *simpliciter* refered to the Presbyterie as haveing warrand from them not to deal in any particular until the Presbyterie should be acquaintit. The Presbyterie allowes the act in the mater thairof in general withall, passing by the informalitie thairof, as also did allow the minister in not subscryving the samyne. Desyreing him and counseling him now to subscryve the samyne, and that they did injoine him that nothing sould be done in particular with any seate within the said kirk until the Presbyterie should first be maid foirsein theirof.

Anent the old Laird of Balmowto, his subscryving of the Covenant; it is thought expedient that he shall delay his sorrow for lying out so long, and what he does to do it sincearlie and uprightlie with his whole hart, according to the declaration of the Assemblie of Glasgow, who not being so weil prepaired as they wold wishe, continuews him till the nixt day.

A letter being direct from Edr. requyreing that all ministers sall give up ane roll or list of the persons deceased within thair several paroshes since December 1638, that the monyes of the quotts of the testaments may be taine up for the furtherance of publik affaires was condesended unto be the brethren and appoynts intimatioun thairof to be maid in all the kirks.

It is agreed upon that Mr Mungo Law his place sall be supplyed be the brethren,

and that the order sall begin at the east and goe north about, and Mr Thomas Hogg to supplie the samyne the nixt Sabbath.

Master John Michaelson compeireing, declaires his willingness to subscryve the Covenant, bot in respect that the brethren ar not fullie content that he who hes layen so long out sallbe resaved this day continewes him to the nixt day.

Cristian Scrimgeor hir claime anent the manss of Kingorn being produced, Walter Duncan, ruleing elder and commissioner from Kingorn, requyres the copie thairof, to be advysit with, whilk was grantit to him.

Anent a bairne whilk was borne in the Weyms, and nurised in Peathhead and Kirkcaldie, whose mother hes run away, it is appoyntit that something be contribute be the thrie paroshes, viz.—Weyms, Dysert, and Kirkcaldie to be given for searching out the mother of the bairne that they may be ridd of it.

Julii 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the act of the Sessioun of the Kirk of Auchtertule, the Presbyterie as is afoirsaid approved the samyne in the generall, and Mr William Bell, minister then subscryved the samyne as for the particular.

The laird of Balmowto, elder, compeireing, and demandit what right he had or pretendit to ane seate thair, whereof he had possessioun this mony years bygone, anserd he claimed no right to any seate in the Kirk of Auchtertule, nayther sould he ever in any time comeing directlie or indirectlie.

So the Presbyterie, considering that the ground of that controversie betwixt the laird of Halyairds being removed in that poynt, passed to the ither poynt of the Laird's complaint aganst the minister, whilk was that he had not obeyed the acts of the General and Provinciale Assemblie appoynting everie minister to preache twyse everie Sabbath day. The Presbyterie ordeanes the said Mr William Bell, minister at the said Kirk of Auchtertule, to preache twyse everie Sabbath day from this forth, and to begin the nixt Sabbath preciselie, and so to continuew under the paine of the censures of the Kirk ; and moreover the brethren considering that (this being done) all occasioun of difference betwixt them then to be removed desyres my Lord Elcho, the Laird of Bogie, and Mr James Symsone to goe presentlie and deale for reconceillatioun betwixt them, whilk they did, and returneing declaired that they had agreed them fullie to the great contentment of the brethren.

The whilk day also my Lord of Elcho desyred that he myt have one of thair number to goe with him to preache to his regiment whereunto the brethren condescendit and grantit that Mr Georg Gilespie sould goe with him and becauss the said Mr Georg was appoyntit to goe commissioner to the Assemblie at Aberdein in that caice chosed Mr John Chalmer, younger, thair commissioner to goe in his place and dureing the said Mr Georgs absence that his place sallbe supplied be the brethren upon the Sabbath and that Mr Mungo Law his place sallbe supplied upon the Friday in respect of this new burden.

The brethren ar content to levin ane thousand Merks of thair voluntar contribution for further defrayeing of the publik charges of the Countrie and to delyver

the samyne to the Laird of Bogie upon Saturday nixt, who promeises to give them securitie for the samyne.

The whilk day also compeired the Laird of Balmowto, elder, who gave the brethren full satisfaction in thair demand anent the subscryving of the Covenant who subscryved the samyne the said day according to the declaratioun of the Assemblie of Glasgow, who promeised to maintain the samyne with his bodie and goods.

Compeired also Doctor John Michaelson anent the subscryveing of the Covenant who being demandit anent the articles following:—1. Whither he was sorie and grieved for lyeing out so long and refuseing to subscryve the Covenant. 2. For his errors in preacheing, speaking, and writting aganest the Covenant. 3. If he acknowledges the lawfulness of his depositioun. 4. If he acknowledges the Presbytrie to be his judge. 5. If he be content to mak assignatiown of a band belongeing to the sessioun of Burntiland conceaved in his name to the present Minister and Sessioun of Burntiland. 6. If he acknowledges the law of the Generall Assemblie of Glasgow to be lawful and of authoritie although it want a civill sanctioun. 7. If he be content to mak a publik declaratioun in the kirk of Burntiland of his grieffe for the offence that he had done thair be former cariage.

To all the whilk articles he anserit the affirmitive and promeised to mak his declaratioun in the kirk of Burntiland upon Sunday come eight dayes, whereupon he was admittit and subscryvit the Covenant and ordeaned so to doe.

It is appoyntit that the brethren bring with them the nixt day ane moneths pay for the maintenance of the Minister who attends the regiment.

It is appoyntit also that these who hes not intimat the act anent the giveing up of the names of the defunct within thair several paroshes doe it the nixt day. All other things continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Julii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent my Lord of Scotstarvet his supplicatioun to the Presbytrie craveing thair judgement anent his proceeding with the Presbytrie of Dunbarr in presenting Mr William Forbes to the kirk of

The Prespytrie approves of his presentatioun and recommends the samyne to the commissioners.

The whilk day also Mr William Bell maid his excuse that he begoud not to preache twyse the last Sabbath as he was enjoyned be reason he was sick and promeises to begin the nixt Sabbath. Excuse accepted.

Ane act from the committee of warr at Kirkcaldie anent sherars and mawers and thair fees sein and allowed and ordeaned to be intimate in all the kirks.

Mr Georg Gilespie declaired his inhabilite to follow the regiment in respect of his helth. The Presbytrie ansers they cannot urge him and offers that if my Lord Elcho will be pleasit to tak any other they will agree to it and give him ane calling.

Collonell Leslie be his letter desyreing that he myt have ane of thair number to preache to his regiment. Anser they cannot agree to it in respect thair is so many

of thair number away alreadie and seing that his ll regiment is maid up of thrie or four Presbytries in that caice they wold request him his ll to provyde himself of one of the Presbytries and desyres the Moderator to writt thair excuse to my Lord Collonell that they cannot satisfie him.

It is grauntit that the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie sall have thair expense from the rest of the brethren.

Anent Cristian Scrimgeors supplicatioun craveing that the expense bestowed be hir Umqll father upon the kirkmanss of Kingorne may be refunded to hir the Presbytrie declaires that the Minister ought to pay the samyne.

He desyres the said Manss to be sighted and visited and for that effect appoynts Mr James Symeson and Mr Andro Leslie to visit the manss.

The commission for the Assemblie to be holden at Aberdein upon Tysday the 29 day of Julii instant not being written appoynts the Clerk to have the samyne in reddines aganest Moonday nixt and the brethren to meitt heir at Dysert the said day for subscryveing the samyne, and ordeanes that Margaret Douglas process sallbe put to ane poynt the said day preciselie.

DYSERT, *Julii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts Mr Frederik to goe preacher with Collonell Leslie to his regiment.

The whilk day compeired William Bunthorne, witness aganest Margaret Douglas, who being admitted be hir (there present) deponed that he being babtising one of his bairnes and ane other man having ane bairne baptised the said day, whose bonnett was lyeing on Margaret Douglas hir knie, ane litill bairne of his being in the kirk, went and tuiched the bonnett, and Margaret Douglas strak the bairne upon the arme and bad him goe out by. The bairne took sickness within tuo or thrie dayes and died within 40 dayes thairafter.

The Presbytrie haveing re-revised the haill process at length and considered the samyne finds that the process of witchcraft wherewith she was chargit, not proven aganest hir.

The whilk day also the commission for the Assemblie was subscryvit and the commissioners viz., Mr John Moncrieff, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr John Chalmer, younger, and William Rigg of Athernie acceptit the samyne, who gave thair oaths of fidelitie thairanent, and that thai sould not foirstale thair voyces of the quhilk commissioun the tenor followeth—

DYSERT, the 16 day of *Julii*, 1640.

The whilk day after incalling upon the name of God, the ministers and ruleing elders of the Presbyterie of Kirkcaldie, haveing diligentlie considered the greate necessitie of General Assemblies for the preservatioun of the libertie of this reformed Kirk of Scotland, and now expecting schortlie be the mercie of God the benefite of a frie Generall Assemblie appoyntit be his Maties. heigh Commissioner to be holden at Aberdein upon the 28 day of Julii instant, doe be thir presents

nominate and appoynt Mr John Moncrief, minister at Kingorne, Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, Mr John Chalmer, younger, minister at Auchterdirran, and William Rigg of Athernie, ruleing elder in name of the Barrens, conjunctlie and severallie our lawfull commissioners, giveing and granting to them our full power, commissioun, and express charge to repair to the said Assemblie upon Tysday the 28 of Julii foirsaid and thair with the rest of the members of the Assemblie who sallbe authorised with lawfull commissiouns in our name to propone, treate, reason, voyce, and conclude in all maters that sall occur, according to the word of God, and Confessioun of Faith approven be syndrie Generall Assemblies resaved throughout the whole kyngdom in all ecclesiastical maters competent to a free Generall Assemblie, and tending to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ and good of religioun as they will anser to God and his kirk thairupon, and to report thair diligence theirin—In testificatioun of this our commissioun and charge, we have subscryvit thir presents with our hands, and they have accepted the said commissioun with oath and lifted up hands at Dysert, day and dait afoirsaid.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 23, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . Mr James Miller produced ane discharge from James Pitcairne of the full payment of one hundreth punds for the Burser of Theologie whereof the tenor follows :—I, James Pitcairne, grants me to have resaved from Mr James Miller, the sowme of ane hundreth punds as full and compleit payment for the Burser of Theologie for the year of God 1639.

Sic subscribitur, JAMES PITCAIRNE.

Compeired James Lamb compleaning that the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie had done him wrong in decerning the seate which apperteyned to Thomas Lamb and John Lamb to apperteyne to his sisters Margaret and Rachael Lambs lawfull daughters of Umqll Thomas Lamb and Umqll John Lamb, and to thair husbands William Melvill and Robert Mastertone, desyreing that he and his brother William Lamb may be hard for thair interest, and in the meantyme desyres that the brethren wold suspend the decreit of the Sessioun ay, and while it be decernit to whom it perteynes.

The Presbytrie grants to heire them bot in the meantyme continews the act of the Sessioun in the owne force of it till the mater be discussed.

Mr Andro Leslie maid report anent Doctor John Michaelson his declaratioun in the kirk of Burntiland, whose relatioun when the brethren hard fond that he had not obeyed thair former ordinance bot rather done contrarie, and given more offence to that people and so maid the mater worss, quhairfor the brethren resolves to consider the mater in a more frequent meitting, and to tak some convenient courss thairwith, and in the meantyme wills Mr William Nairne, minister at Dysert to goe to Mr John Michelson and signifie to him that the brethren hes fownd as said is.

DYSERT, *August* 13, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . The Laird of Halyairds compleaned upon Mr William Bell 1, for not holding the Sessioun thir diverss weiks bygone. 2, for not celebrating

the communion; 3, for not praying for the armie abroad; 4, for not visiting the sick. The brethren haveing hard Mr William Bells anser to all the foirsaid poynts finds him to have failled in some poynts, and admonishes him to amend that whilk is amiss.

It is appoyntit that thair be ane solemne fast keiped in all the kirks of the countrie, upon the 23 day of this instant, and the Thursday thairafter for a prosperous success to the armie, and that thair be doctrin and preparation the Saturday befoir.

Mr James Symeson and Mr Andro Leslie gave in thair diligence anent thair visiting the manss of Kingorne. Mr John Moncrief took the samyne to be advysit with it. Mr Thomas Hogg desyres that his manss of Kennoquhie may be visited. The brethren appoynts Mr Robert Cranstown to visit the samyne.

Mr William Nairne reportit that he went to Mr John Michaelson, and declaired to him the brethrens mynd anent his declaration in the kirk of Burntiland, who as he reportit, is willing to referr himself to the Presbyterie.

Kathren Thomson quadrilapse in fornication to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

Ordeanes the clerk to writt ane sowmons for sowmonding some persons in Skunie for abstracting thair bairns from schole of Levin and putting them to other scholes.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the moneyes that ar not delyverit of the voluntar contributions, it is thought meit that the Laird of Bogie shall goe to Markinche and gett als much of the contribution thair as sall pay Major Brown for bygones viz., 62 lbs. 5sh, and 4d, and as for the rest of the haill contributions that ar not as yet delyverit the brethren thinks expedient that they be deteyned till they see thair owne Misters.

The whilk day also William Tenent and Robert Whyte Bailies of Kirkcaldie Commissioners from the towne compeired: desyred that they may have one of the brethren to be fellowhelper with Mr James Symeson in his ministrie who promeises to give in ane leitt aganest the nixt day of meitting.

The brethren promeises thair favour and concurrence thairanent. Mr Robert Cranstown promeises to provyd one to preache in the Weyms the nixt Sabbath.

Compeired Kathren Thomson quadrelapse in fornication: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress: resaved hir first injunctions and remitted to hir minister.

Mr John Moncrief gave in ansers to Mr James Symeson and Mr Andro Lislies compryseing of the manss of Kingorne shewing that they had gone further than thair commissioun the brethren appoynts them to goe thither agane and try the mater better and appoynts Mr William Bell to goe with them upon Moonday come eight dayes.

Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth, William Walker in Duriecowtowne, Henrie Horne thair, Andro Geddie in Drumaird John Geddie thair, all personalie sowmonit for abstracting thair bairnes from the Schole of Levin, called: none compeired: ar appoyntit to be sowmonit the nixt day, pro 2.

Anent Bessie Walwood hir petition to be delyvered out of the steiple of Dysert where she hes lyen so long for charming the brethren, remitts the mater to the Magistrates of Dysert.

Mr John Irving admittit to sit and heir with the brethren.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . The Bailies of Kirkcaldie being to give in thair leitt for a fellowhelper to thair minister this day ar absent being over the water.

Mr James Symeson and Mr Andro Leslie reportit that they with Mr William Bell went to the kirk manss of Kingorne accompanyed with Thomas Crawfuird wright in Auchtertule and William Baxter in Kingorne and apprysed the said manss and fand the sclaites with the naules at this tyme to be worth 26 lbs. 13 sh. and 4d.

Item the roof to be worth as it stands . . 16 lbs.
Item they estimate the fyftein tries that ar in the laft as it stands . 6 lbs.
Item the flooring as it stands . . . 10 lbs.

The men of Levin continewed till another diet.

Mr John Moncrief appoyntit to goe to the Weyms the nixt Sabbath also to baptize John Hayes bairne who brought ane testimonial from Cuper in Angus.

DYSERT, *September* 10, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . The persons of Skunnie befoir nominat being sowmonit, called, compeired not: ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 3.

Anent Sr Georg Bosuell his intermitting of his repentance it is ordeaned that if he intermitt anie further he sall begin agane *de novo* and ordeanes Mr John Chalmer to intimate the samyne to him.

The brethren appoynts the book of the prophesie of Hosea to be the grownd of thair exercise nixt.

Compeired Margaret Lindsay in the bridg of Kirkcaldie delate for charming viz. spitting in a bairnes face of the fallen sicknes, confessed the samyne, bot said she had sein the samyne done: ordeaned to be present the nixt day in Kirkcaldie for farther tryell.

Anent Mr David Balcanqll, Reider at Markinche, the Presbytrie inhibits him to contract any persons now in the ministers absence bot to causs some of the brethren to doe it and the commissioners of Markinche to come the nixt day to the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . The persons of Skunie befoir named being sowmonit called: compeired not. Upon promeise of amendment ar continewed, bot if they amend not to be proceeded aganest, and the process to begin where it left. Mr Lindsay called: compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

Mr William Bell appoyntit to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath, Mr John Moncrief in Dysert the morrow,

Henrie Alison, adulterer with Margaret Steinsone compeiring resaved his last injunctions.

A letter direct from the Erle of Rothess for tryeing of Mr Robert Bruce for the Kirk of Ballingrie he not compeiring : anser continewed till he come.

DYSERT, *September* 24, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbyterie desyres the Laird of Bogie to advance the money adebted to Major Browne and they will pay him out of thair voluntar contributiouns.

A letter direct from Sr Georg Bosuell : ansered, let him goe fordwart in his repentance.

Mr David Andersons compt of his debursments for his manss appoyntit to be tryed be Mr John Chalmer and Mr Thomas Melvill, and they also to visit his manss.

2 merks resaved from Mr Thomas Melvill for the clerk fie to the Assemblie.

Collect of voluntar contribution in the parochine of Kingorne 700 merks, wherof 350 was dylyvered to Mr John Smith for the Erle of Rothess regiment. Item 160 to the uss of My Lord Elcho his regiment. Rests yit behind 160 merks.

Item collected in the parochine of Portmook, 210 merks 3 sh, whereof delyverit ane hundreth merks to Mr John Smith and fiftie to the Laird of Bogie for Elcho. So rests behind 40 lbs, 3 sh.

Item collecteit in the parochine of Kinglessie, 226 merks, 11 sh, and 10d, whereof delyverit to Mr John Smith for Rothess 100 merks and ten. Item to Bogie for Elcho, 58 merks. So rests 58 merks, 11 sh, and 10d undelyverit.

Item collectit in the parochine of Skunie, 250 merks delyverit to Mr John Smith for Rothes. Item 125 merks delyverit to Bogie for Elcho.

Item collectit in the parochine of Auchterdirran, 160 merks, whereof delyverit to Mr John Smith 80 merks. Item to Bogie, 40 merks. So rests 40 merks.

Item collectit in the parochine of Kennoquhie, 227 merks, 3 sh, as yit undelyverit.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Hogg, minister at Kennoquhie, was appoyntit to delyver to the Laird of Bogie, 107 lb, 15 sh and 4d, whilk he advanced by the appoyntment of the Presbytrie to Major Brown for pay awand to him of the whilk sowme a great part sould have bein payed long since.

Mr Robert Bruce being recommendit be the Erle of Rothess (be his Lordships letter) to be tryed that after tryell and approbation he might be admittit as fellow-helper to Mr David Anderson, minister at Ballingrie, who being dead befoir the said Mr Robert his comeing to the Presbytrie : the brethren desyres him to purchase ane presentation from the Erle.

The ministers and ruleing elders being removed for thair tryells (befoir the Assemblie) eache one praises God for others.

The brethren nominats Mr John Moncrief and Mr Robert Cranstowne thair commissioners to the Assemblie for the Moderatorshipp.

Mr William Bell, minister at Auchtertule desyred that the brethren wold concurr with him at the Assemblie for purchaseing transportation to him from the said kirk for reasons to be alledgit be himself.

Mr J. Miller, scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter being sent from the Erle of Rothess that proportione of money that is dulie awaned to Mr Mungo Law for four moneths remaineing with the armie may be sent to him, the brethren promeises to tak order thairanent.

The Lairds of Arnett and Halyairds gives warrand to Mr John Moncrief to pay the sowme of 28 lbs (debursit for cloath to the use of the armie) out of the voluntar contribution of Kingorne.

Sir Georg Bosuells abridgment of his repentance remittit to his minister.

Burntiland, Kingorne, and Skunnie, payed thair clerk fie to the clerk of the Assemblie.

DYSERT, *October* 22, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter being seine, sent from Mr Mungo Law desyreing to be releived of his charge with the armie, also the Bailies of Dysert compeireing supplicates the Presbytrie that he may be sent for and another sent in his place. The brethren thinks the desyre reasonable, and thairfoir grants that he sallbe relieved, and for that effect Mr John Chalmer, younger, is chosen to goe to supplie his place.

Compeired Margaret Lindsay challenged upon some practices of witchcraft. The brethren thinks meitt that she be wardit and tryed.

Anent Mr Mungo Law his charges, the brethren agrees that they be payit the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent that whilk rests of the voluntar contribution undelyverit, the brethren ar content, and appoynts that it be all delyverit the nixt day.

Mr Gilbert Clerk chosen ruleing elder for Kinglessie. John Law for Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *November* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter sent from the Erle of Rothess desyreing that Mr John Moncrief may be sent to the armie with all expidition to supplie Mr Mungo Lawes place. Another letter sent from My Lord Elcho that one may be sent to the armie to supplie Mr Mungo Lawes and Mr George Gilespies place seing bothe the companies are joyned in one Brigad and so one parishe. The brethren consents thairto, and appoynts Mr John Moncrief to goe thither and ordeanes that all that is awand to Mr Mungo Law be sent to him, and Mr John Moncrief gett tuo moneths pay with him and his place in his absence to be supplied be the brethren *per vices*, beginning at the Presbytrie seate and following that order.

To advyse the nixt day anent the makeing of ane act for absents.

Mrs William Bell, Robert Cranstowne, Thomas Melville, paid thair clerk fie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 12, 1640.

The whilk day . . . . . It is ordeaned that all absents from the Presbytrie shall pay 12 sh. for ilk absence without ane such lawfull excuse as sallbe approven be the brethren.

Item it is thought expedient that ruleing Elders sallbe advertysed to be present this day fyftein dayes that some order may be taken anent thair absence.

Mr Harie Wilkie payit tuo moneths pay to Mr Mungo Law delyvered to Mr Georg Law. Anent these brethren who departit from the Assemblie befoir the dissolving thairof the brethren are to tak such order as other Presbytries does.

Ordeanes the brethren to bring the superplus of thair voluntar contributions with them to the nixt day of meitting.

Compeired Margaret Steinsone adultress with Henrie Alison in Auchtertull: resaved hir first injunctions. Mrs Harie Wilkie, Thomas Melvill, and John Chalmer delyverit the superplus of thair contributions whilk was resaved be the Laird of Bogie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The Laird of Halyairds compleaned upon Mr William Bell desyreing that he myt have process aganest him whereto the Presbytrie condescendit according to a complaint.

It is ordeaned elders who beis absent from the Presbytrie sall pay 12 sh. for thair absence als weill as ministers without they have a lawfull excuse.

Mr Robert Bruce presented ane letter from the Erle of Rothess togither with ane presentation in his favours to the kirk of Ballingrie. The brethren appoynts Mr Robert Bruce to preache in Ballingrie the nixt Sabbath and thairafter to be resaved to his tryells. Mr William Bell is ordeaned to preache twyse upon the Sabbath both in Winter and Sommer. The brethren refuses to grant mariage to James Kay whose wyffe went from him 3 or 4 years since being distractit of hir witts and was niver sein or heard of since, also refuses mariage to Janet Nicholsone in Auchterdirran whose husband went from hir 7 years since.

DYSERT, *December* 3.

. . . A letter direct from Collonell Leslie desyreing that Mr Frederick Carmichell may come bak agane to the armie to preache to his folks. The brethren remitts the mater to Mr Frederik himself.

James Scrimgeor declaired that the people of Ballingrie lyked weill of Mr Robert Bruce who he hopt sould give them contentment. Isobell Bosuells petitioun agane recommendit to the Heretors of Kinglessie.

Mr Mungo Law his charge dureing his absence at the armie to be remembrit and be brought be the brethren.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 10.

The whilk day . . . Halyairds payed 12 sh. for his last dayes absence: resaved be the Moderator. Mr Andro Leslie is ordeaned to pay 12 sh. for his last dayes

absence the former dayes absence being excused. Anent Halyairds process aganest Mr William Bell the Presbytrie grants to the said Mr William this day fyftein dayes for proveing his aledgeance aganest the Laird. A letter being direct from the committee at Edr and another from Mr Georg Gilespie craveing from the brethren that since Mr Georg was sent for to Londone to atend thair that the brethren wold supplie his place in his absence. The brethren agrees thairto and ordeanes Mr Thomas Hogg to begin. It is appoyntit that all these who have not given in the rest of thair voluntar contributions sall delyver the same to the Laird of Bogie. Mr John Chalmer is appoyntit to preache in Kingorne the nixt Sabbath. The Presbytrie gives libertie to Mr James Graham to preache amongst them. Compeired Robert Brown, taylor, in Burntiland: affirmed that he lay with Kathren Paterson about ten or eleven years since.

DYSERT, *December* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Ordeanes Mr Robert Bruce to go fordward in his tryells and assignes to him the Cowmonhead *De Origine Peccati* to handell so soon as possiblie he can. Mr Thomas Hogg gave in *Theses* who is to handell the Cowmonhead the nixt day. Mr James Symson paid the bygon clerk fie of the Assemblie. Mr Robert Cranstowne to preache in the Weyms the nixt Sabbath Mr John Chalmer in Kingorne, Mr Thomas Melvill having taught thair the last Sabbath. Mr Robert Bruce to goe and preache in Ballingrie.

The Presbytrie suspends the act of Burntilands Sessioun aganest Robert Browne till the minister come to the Presbyterie and advyse be taine thairanent.

Georg Lessels bairne in Kingorne to be baptised. Arnetts absence excused.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 24, 1640.

The whilk day David Browne in Burntiland was remitted to the Sessioun of Burntiland, to be censured thair for his fault in slandering of Kathren Paterson, whilk ordinance was intimated to the said David.

Anent the process pursued be the Laird of Halyairds aganest Mr William Bell, minister at Auchtertule, compeired John Crawfaird, Frances Rolland, James Brunlie, James Law, Alex. Lindsay, John Wylie, John Meldrum, John Stocks, all indwellers in the parochin of Auchtertule, witnesses for Mr William Bell, minister there, All admittit and sworne, deponed as follows, viz.: John Crawfaird, James Brunlie, Frances Rolland, John Meldrum, John Stocks—that the laird nor his baillie never came to them to discharge them to vote in any thing in the Sessioun; also that the laird never caused open the box without the minister but once, and that was to give ane man money who had ane warrand from the Presbytrie.

James Law, Alex. Lindsay, John Wyllie deponed that the lairds baillie came to them and forbad them to vote to the cutting of the pulpett for inputting of any seate there, but never in any other thing. The brethren of the Presbytrie thinks that the laird of Halyairds has done no wrong in opening the box at that time—as also anent the forbidding to cutt the pulpett.

As for that poynt whereas Mr William alleges that the laird called him ane deluder of the people nayther did any of the forsaid witnesses prove the samyn (but deneyed that ever they heard such thing). Also the laird of Halyairds purged himself thairof, whilk was acceptit of the brethren. Against the whilk purgatatioun of the laird of Halyairds, Mr William Bell protested befoir God that it was trew what he allegit, so that ane of them was manesworne, for the whilk the brethren of the Presbytrie rebuiked the said Mr William verie scharplie, and demandid of him if he crave any further dyet to prove his alledgeance against the laird who craved the next day of meiting, viz., this day eight dayes whilk was granted to him.

Mr Frederik Carmichael appoyntit to goe to Kingorne the nixt Sabbath to preache thair. Mr William Nairne to goe to the Weyms to preache thair. Question proponed anent some persons who had transgressed the Sabbath of the paroshe of Kinglessie anent thair repentance: Anser, that they sallbe urged to mak thair publik repentance upon the stool one day.

DYSERT, *December* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell having bein appoyntit to goe to Kingorne the last Sabbath, and disobeying, is ordeaned to goe thither the nixt Sabbath and that under the paine of censure, and to be censured for his former disobedience, and ordeanes the clerk to writt to him so, which he did. Anent Halyaird's proces with Mr William Bell, the Presbytrie appoynts Mr William to sett down all things that he can against the laird against the next day formalie, and ordeanes the clerk to bring the Presbyterie book with him for sighting of the haill proces, and the next day that some solide order be taken thairanent, before the brethren remove.

Compeired Elspett Law in Kirkcaldie, adultress with Harrie Wilsone: resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 7, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell agane appoyntit to goe to Kingorne to preache the nixt Sabbath who was censured for his last dayes absence. Mr Mungo Law to goe to Weyms the nixt Sabbath. Mr Mungo Law and Mr Thomas Melvill being put in lite, one of them to goe to Newcastell to relieve Mr John Moncrieff—Mr Thomas Melvill was chosen be pluralitie of votes, and to have charges from the rest of the brethren. The commissioners of Kingorne desyred that the brethren wold have consideratioun of thair Reiders place whilk is now vaikand be decease of Mr Thomas Bigger.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 14.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the varitie of the meitting be reason of the danger of the way be the frost. . . . Compeired John Anderson in the parochine of Auchterdirran, trelapse in fornication: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adulterer: resaved his first injunctions. Mr William Bell is appoyntit to exercise nixt, Text, Hosea 2, 10. Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth compeireing, for abstracting

his bairnes from the schole in Levin: ordeaned to compeir the nixt day in Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 21.

The whilk day thair being no exercise appoyntit, in respect that Mr Robert Bruce was to be hard in his tryells, and in respect of the raritie of the meitting becauss of the tempestuousnes of the weather, he is continewed to the nixt day . . .

A letter resaved from Mr Georg Gilespie from Londone, with thanks for supplyeing his place and newes. Mr Mungo and Mr Frederik Carmichell gave in thair reasons for thair tuo last dayes absence whilk wer acceptit. Mr James Symson being demandit of the brethren why he went not to the Weyms the last Sabbath (as he was appoyntit)—anserit, in respect of the foulnes of the weather and his inhabilitie to travell. The brethren wer not content with his reasons, and thairfoir appoynts him to goe the nixt Sabbath whilk he willinglie acceptit, also one of the Ministers of Dysert, to goe to Kingorne and preache thair. Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth being sowmonit, to have compeired this day, called: compeirit not: is appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2, or to be proceedit aganest publiklie. A letter being sent from My Lord of Elcho humblie requyreing the brethren that they wold sent one of thair number to the armie to relieve Mr John Moncrieff whose tyme is expyred to come home, the brethren appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill to be advertysed heirof, and this letter to be sent to him to causs him prepare himself to goe thither. Mr William Bennett minister at Monymeale, acquainting the brethren anent the division of the Presbytrie of Cuper, for the admitioun of Mr John Litiljohn to the kirk Cullessie, desyreing the brethrens letter to thair Presbytrie with thair best advyse thairanent. The brethren acquiesces thairto, and appoynts the Laird of Bogie, Mrs Robert Ayton and Mungo Law, to advyse anent the penning of the said letter. Mr Thomas Melville being goeing for the armie craves ane letter of warrand whilk was grantit.

DYSERT, *Januari* 28, 1641.

The whilk day thair being no exercise appoyntit in respect that Mr Robert Bruce should have bein hard in his tryells whilk in respect of the evill wether and varitie of the meitting was continewed to the nixt day.

A letter being sent from the Presbytrie of Cuper craveing the brethrens advyse and concurrence to meitt with them the morrow be thair commissioners for takeing thair advyse anent the settleing of Mr John Litiljohn, the brethren in respect of the foullnes of the wether and the shortnes of the meitting to that effect excuses themsefs (being rairlie met) and appoynts the Moderator and clerk to writt to them the samyne in thair names and to send the letter to them in tyme whilk was obeyed. Mr Thomas Melvill declaired his diligence for goeing to the armie (as he was appoyntit) bot in respect that he could not have ane horss for his jorney and the foull wether and his own infirmitie he durst not venter till the wether wer some better, whilk excuse the brethren accepted. Mr James Symson delyverit 6 lbs to the

clerk for him. Leslie craveing some support of the brethren for preacheing, thair minister being dead.

KIRKCALDIE, *Feb.* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Bruce handled the Cowmonhead *De Modo Propagationis Peccati Originalis* in Latin and was approven of all the brethren who hard him. Absents — onlie Mrs Andro Leslie and William Bell, Frederik Carmichell. Mr Robert Bruce susteaned disputations upon his *Theses* and was approven be all the brethren present and is the nixt day to sustean further disputations and is to anser to the catechetique questions. Mr Harie Wilkie is appoyntit to add the nixt day. Text, Hose 2, 10. William Hamiltone ane scholler petitioning for some support of the brethren, resaved.

Sr Georg Bosuell compeireing and humblie craveing of the brethren that they wold schorten the tyme of his repentance that he may be reconcilled to the kirk, the brethren ar content to dispense with some dayes bot in the meantyme will not dispense with the last thrie bot that he sall satisfie as others. Compeired Georg Gibb adulterer with Elspett Greive: resaved his last injunctions.

Mr William Bell ordeaned to preache the nixt Sabbath in Weyms, Mr Robert Bruce in Ballingrie and ane Expectant in Kingorne for Mr James Symson.

DYSERT, *Februari* 11, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr Frederik Carmichell his goeing to the armie the brethren ar content to supplie his place in his absence (as they may) that is to say one in fyftein dayes with ane actuall minister and once with ane expectant.

Mr Robert Bruce susteaned further disputations upon his *Theses* and was approven be the brethren anent that poynt of his tryells. Mr John Chalmer appoyntit to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath, Mr David Barclay in Leslie. The clerk resaved from Mr John Chalmer for Mr Thomas Melvill 6 lbs 12d less. Item from Mr Harie Wilkie, 6 lbs. Item from Mr William Bell, 4 lbs 6 sh. Item from Mr Robert Cranstowne, 4 lbs.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februari* 18.

The whilk day Mr Robert Bruce was tryed in his Hebreu and in his Greik wherein he gave the brethren satisfactioun and was approven be them on that poynt also the said Mr Robert being tryed on his catechetique questions satisfied the brethren and was also approven be them on that poynt. The brethren for his further tryell appoynts him to preache in Dysert the nixt Thursday popular doctrin and assignes him for Text Phil 3, 8.

The laird of Halyairds regraitting that his controversie with Mr William Bell is not putt to ane poynt, the brethren ordeanes thair clerk to writt to the said Master William that he be present the nixt Thursday or the Thursday thairafter with certification that if he compeir not he salbe holden *pro confesso* and to succumb in his probatioun.

Anent Mr Thomas Melville his goeing to the armie the brethren requests him

to goe thither with all possible diligence and ordeanes that all the brethren sall contribute for his furtherance viz. those that ar home presentlie and these who ar absent when they come home. The Parson of Dysert payit 8 lbs. 3 sh. presentlie for that effect.

The whilk day also anent the Generall his letter to the Presbytrie for a preacher to the horss troups of Fyffe the brethren thinks that seing these troups belongs to all Fyff and not to this Presbytrie onlie and that hithertills this Presbytrie hes had the brethren furnishing a preacher thairto that now the rest of the Presbytres should bear thair burden also. The brethren appoynts one of thair number viz. Mr Mungo Law and ane ruleing with him to goe to Falkland to the committie to deale with them that one of some other Presbytrie may be sent. Mr James Baxter appoyntit to preache in Leslie the nixt Sabbath, Mr Harie Wilkie to preache in Weyms. James Abercrombie being sowmonit, called : compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth being publicklie sowmonit, called : compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2, and in the meantyme to be suspendit from his office of Eldership.

DYSERT, *Februari* 25.

The whilk day Mr Robert Bruce handled the place of scriptur assigned to him and was approven be all the brethren who ar content with his tryells and appoynts his edict to be served upon the Sabbath nixt, and ordeanes Mr John Chalmer to preache at Ballingrie the said day and to intimate his edict and Mr Robert Bruce to preache at Auchterdirran and the edict to be served to this day fyftein dayes. Mr Robert Bruce be his great oath deponed that he had mad no Simoniacall paction with the Erle of Rothess or any in his name. Anent the process betwixt Halyairds and Mr William Bell ; Mr William Bell craved the nixt day peremptorie wherein he promeises to alledge all he can say. The Laird of Halyairds is content and so the Presbytrie yeilds thairto, Mr William to bring his man with him. Mr Harie Wilkie appoyntit to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath.

For supplying of the kirk of Leslie the order is appoyntit to begin at Kirkcaldie and thence to goe about ane actuall minister once in thrie weiks and the other tuo dayes to supplie be ane expectant. Compeired Thomas Gourlay : ordeaned to put his bairnes agane to the schole of Levin and to give satisfaction to the Sessioun of Skunnie for his contumacie being ane Elder in byding tuo publick citationes to pass aganest him and thairafter to repair to the Presbytrie and acknowledge his said fault befoir the Presbytrie and to re-enter his children to the said schole of Levin as said is thair to remain still ay and whill he mak the said satisfaction in both the said places, and if the said Thomas will tak a courss to send his bairnes elswhere becauss it may prejudice the benefit of the said congregatioun he sallbe oblished to pay up quarter payments quarterlie as if the bairnes remained still at the schole whilk act sallbe extendit to all others in the paroshe that sall follow his example.

Compeired Elspett Grieve adultress with Georg Gibb in the parochine of Dysert : resaved hir first injunctions.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr William Bell and the Laird of Fynmonth to visit Mr John Chalmer his manss.

Mr Mungo Law reportit that the committie at Falkland had nominat Mr Walter Grigg in the Presbytrie of Cuper to goe to the armie.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 4, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . All persons being sowmonit who had any thing to object aganest the admissioun of Mr Robert Bruce and called at the kirk durr thryse: none compeired except Robert Colville wbo had nothing to object aganest the man, whose reasons wer nothing respective nor worth the heiring, and so passed by.

Mr Robert Bruce his testimonial being sein be the brethren was allowed. Appoynts Mr Robert Bruce his resaveing as minister of Ballingrie be the nixt Thursday the 11 of this instant and Mr James Symson Moderator, to preache thair the said day.

Mr Harie Wilkie to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath, Mr James Symson to preache in Leslie. Mr William Bell in Kinglessie.

Anent Mr William Bell his proces with Halyairds, the 8 artickle whereof, viz., that the laird of Halyairds called him ane tinchler—not proven. The said process is appoynted to be put to ane poynt this day fiftein dayes, and no exercise to be that day for that effect, and Mr William Bells letter to Mr James Baird, whilk is the ground of all the controversie, to be registrat in the Presbyterie book, as it was ordeaned befoir.

Thomas Gourlay ordeaned to obey the act given out aganest him. Warrand to baptise ane bairne in Dysert upon cautioun.

The copie of the letter of Mr William Bell to Mr James Baird anent the laird of Halyairds—

Sir,—Please you read this whidder or no that Ruling Elder be injurious to his minister—

1. Who upbraides the minister in his owne house immediatelie before sermon.

2. Who accuses the minister of ane untrueth whilk he never spak in Presbyterie.

3. Who sayes presumptuouslie to the minister, what have ye to doe to speak in the Presbytrie of the seates of the Kirk, and what have ye to do with outputting and inputting of the seates; all the seates are myne.

4. Who threatens the minister to hold a session or he will hold it.

5. Who causes draw up acts in his owne house and be subscrybit in Sessioun by the Reider, who is not nayr ever was sessioun Clerk, the minister forbidding.

6. Who, when the minister for evident reasones desyres the elders to refer that mater to the Presbytrie, bidds the minister hold his tongue; he is bot a deluder of the people.

7. Who casts up the minister his entrie and presentation into the kirk, notwithstanding the ministers approbation by the Presbytrie and parochin befoir his entrie.

8. Who calles the minister in ane letter to the Presbytrie ane tinkler.

9. Who, when anything escapes the minister on the Sabbath (whilk is not the ministers custome), it being incident to the best to eschape, runns publiklie the next Thursday and tells the Presbytrie.

10. Who compleanes to the Presbytrie that the minister visites not the sick notwithstanding the ministers approbation at the visiting of the kirk in that and all other poynts of his ministrie, and it cannot be instanced in any sick persone since he came to that kirk whom he did not visite except ane youth, who was sick onlie in the hart feavers 4 or 5 days, the minister himself in the meantym being verie feaverous and unweill.

11. Who affirmes in the Presbytrie that the minister did not visite that youth becaus his father offered to sheare the ministers grass, whilk calamnie he ought to prove seing no accusatione should be receaved against ane Presbyter under 2 or 3 witnesses, 1 Tim. 5, 19, whilk rule the Spirit of God has sett down there that malicious men may not vent of ministers what they please.

12. Who compleaned to the Presbytrie August 13 for want of the Communion this year and half it being but 9 dayes more than a year from the dait of his compleant unto the 4 of August whilk was the day of Communione the last year, and hee nor any other desyred to give the communione this year before he did compleane.

13. Who compleanes unto the Presbytrie *eodem die* of the ministers not holding ane session when he has any particular adoe and there is nothing concerning the parochin, and on the contrair when there is concernes of the parochin to doe he will not, dennys himself to come to the sessione the verie Sabbath after his compleant, notwithstanding the minister desyres the elders to remaine.

14. Who opens the box at his own hand in session and gives out the poores silver, the minister not being present.

15. Who causes the Moderator accuse the minister in the Presbytrie September 10 that he did not hold a sessione since August 13 whilk falss accusatione he ought to prove and ought not to be receaved under 2 or 3 witnesses as befoir was said.

16. When the minister immediatelie after that causes ane inform him who had sent the process whilk were ledd from day to day in the sessioune book affirmes that the minister of his own hand onlie and at his own hand had put all the acts in the sessione book, but never enacted nor done in sessione.

17. Who albeit he comes not nor never came himself to sessioune since the 21 of September, yet sends his bailie to discharge the elderis to voit in anything whilk he says willbe proposed be the minister if it pleases not him.

18. Who professes openlie in the Presbytrie that hee must not be minister there except the minister acknowledge him and come to his house and cast down his cloak and subject himself and doe homage to him, and he sall come thyrse ere he be welcome.

Now, Sir, when yee reid thir wrongs I have gotten in my ministrie cry unto

your gossipe the Laird fye fye, and the place were vacand there wold never ane honest man desyre to come in one parochine with you, who hes used your minister so violentlie and tyrannouslie for the refuseing onlie (because he had reasones) to subscryve your fals act; repent, repent in tyme, acknowledge your error or ells the wrath of God will come upon you both heir and heirafter for the wrong is done to C (Christ) whose servand the minister is, and no mans servand ells, for in respect of his persone and estate he is onlie subject to the King and in respect of his calling of the ministrie he is subject to none but to Jesus C. having all in the parochine whidder Lords or Lairds or whatever they be subject to him. I find Sr that yee have propheseed although yee be not ane prophet, for the first time that ever yee spak to me at the buord of Scoore was this Mr William Ye have as kind a man as is in the north to your patrone as long as yee goe one way with him, but if ye alter in a jott yee will find him ane plaine devil. I sall doe my best to walk (as ever I have done) in a good conscience, and resist the devil for I will not wrong my conscience in goeing any mans crooked wayes if a legiun of devills sould rage aganest me, for I hope ever to get the victorie in the end and to sie confusion upon my malicious enemies if they repent not. Yee were speaking today of his beneficience to me; it is not worth the speaking. The two aikers off grass Mr David had it before me, his two boll half boll bear he gave to sow my gleib—1 quyt the King's presentation, whilk stood to 14 or 15 dolleris, whilk may stand for that. His four or five leggs of ane lamb he wold send to my house in Somertyme, ane caizlie or two in the Wintertyme—some dowes and sich like things he hes told to ithers—lett him tak 20 merks for them of the first end of my steipend, and as for my eft being in his house (oftener I find nor I desired), hee has the best part of the teynds, wherfor I preache to stand for that—So that he is ane ingrate man to me who, when I did preache the gospell unto him upon myne own charges, and to save his purss did, upon my owne expense, and, moreover, allanerlie gett the feu-duetie annexed to the steipend, and thairafter he served me thus.

Sic Subscribitur,

Yors,

Mr Wm Bell.

Direct on the back thus—

To Mr James Baird, Advocat.

At the Kirk of Ballingrie. *March* 11, 1631.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbyterie convening at the kirk of Ballingrie viz., Mr James Symeson Moderator, who preached the said day Text Rom. 5, 10, 15. Mrs Robert Cranstowne minister at Skunie, Mungo Law, minister at Dysert, William Bell, minister at Auchtertnle, Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Portmook, who after sermon resaved and admittit Mr Robert Bruce, minister at the said kirk of Ballingrie according to the order sett down be the Psalme Book who takeing his oath of alegeance to his Matie. and being resaved be the elders and by impositioun

of hands be the brethren resaved into thair number be thair ryt hand of fellowshipp.

Compeired Thomas Gourlay in Banbeth having satisfied the sessioun of Skunnie acknowledged his fault humblie befoir the brethren and was absolved but appoyntit to acquaint the sessioun of Skunie befoir he should tak his bairnes from the schole. James Abercrombe to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Compeired Henrie Hornie for allegits stryking his father who denyed the same. Ordeanes his minister to try the mater further. Mr Andro Lesslie appoyntit to goe to Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath to preache thair or to send one for him—Mr David Barclay to Lesslie, Mr Thomas Hogg to the Weyms. Henrie Thomson, a runaway from the armie, not to get his bairne baptised till he find cawtion to mak satisfaction for his fault.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 18.

The whilk day conveaned Mr James Symeson moderator, Mrs William Nairne, John Chalmer, Harie Wilkie, Mungo Law, Frederik Carmichell, Thomas Hogg, Robert Cranstowne, William Bell, who after incalling upon the name of God entered in consideratioun of the process pending betwixt the Laird of Halyairds and Mr William Bell. Ruleing elders present the Lairds of Bogie, Halyairds, Pityoucher.

Compeired John Wingett, servitor to Mr William Bell, whom Mr Wm. Bell alledged the laird of Halyairds wold have feed over his head, being his servitor to disapoynt him of ane servand. The said John (parties being removed) admitted and sworn, deponed that Margaret Robertson, servand to the laird of Halyairds came to him and demandit if he was fied with the said Mr William, becaus the laird wantit ane, and he ansered he was feied, who replyed if ye be feied with Mr William if ye will give him over and fie yourself with the laird he will be yor warrand, who said she was sent through all the parochin to seik a man to the laird, bot not that she said she was sent to him in particular.

The whilk day also anent that article in Mr Williams letter that he was challenged for not visiting the sick, it is not proven according as alledgit.

Item anent that article anent the not giveing of the Communione : whereas Mr William aledges that the laird said that he had not given the Communion a year and ane half, Mr Wiliiam has not proven it be the Presbytrie book to the whilk he refered himself.

Anent Halyairds not keipin of the session when anything serious was to be handled, bot desyred a session when he had any accusation, being refered to the Presbyterie book not proven.

But in that Halyairds keeped not the sessiun of a long tyme, not being careful to know that there was a session, in this he is to be blamed, as also Mr William, for not intimateing a certane constant keeping of a session.

Item anent that article anent the acting of Acts in the session book, Mr James Baxter (parties being removed) deponed being admitted and sworne that the laird of Halyairds said to him that if Mr Wm Bell had put anything in that book he had done it himself with his owne hand, so that Mr William hes not proven that poynt as alledgit.

Anent the last poynt proven by the Presbyterie, except in the words homage and subjection, whilk were proven be ane witness, a Presbyter.

The Presbyterie, haying tryed and considered all things concerning the process pursued be the laird of Halyaird against Mr William Bell, finds Mr William Bell, both in his letter to Mr James Baird, and also in his duplyes, not to have proven his alledgeance against the laird, bot that he hes callamiet the said laird of Halyaird, and ar to advyse anent the censure to this day eight dayes and in the meantyme desyres the Erle of Weymss, the Lairds of Bogie & Blaikburn, and Mr Robert Cranstoun, and Mr Frederik Carmichell to deall with Halyairds for reconciliatione betwixt them betwen and the nixt day of meeting.

Compeired David Knox quadrelapse in fornicatioun : ordeaned to sit 26 dayes upon the stool of publik repentance, the one half in his own habite the other in sackcloathe : resaved his first injunctions.

James Abercrombie sowmonit called : compeired not : to be sowmonit pro 3.

DYSERT, *March* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . James Lorne in the parochine of Auchterdirran to be sowmonit to the nixt day for alledgit dinging of his father.

The whilk day compeired James Abercrombie portioner of Strarudie, challenged anent some speeches uttered be him to the minister of Auchterdirran in the pulpett befoir the congregatioun, who confessit the samyn. The minister haveing caused ane man who had fled from the armie to mak his publik repentance, the said James after demitting of the man stood up and said, Jesus, Mr John, what was the causs yee did not tell the causes that maid him to come away ; he was starved for hunger what mean yee that yee told not that maid him come away. Ordeaned to acknowledge his fault befoir the pulpett on Sonday come eight dayes, upon his knees, and crave God and the congregatioun pardone thairfoir. Compeired Janet Fairlie trilapse in fornicatioun and resaved hir first injunctiouns in Sackcloathe. Compeired Mr Edward Bigholme, craveing mariage with Margaret Gray : delayed for a tyme, and inhibit hir companie in the meantyme under the paine to be holden as ane fornicator.

A letter direct from the committee at Edr, for keiping ane fast upon the 4 of April : ordeanes intimatioun to be maid thairof the nixt Sabbath, in all the kirks within the Presbytrie. Anent the process betwixt the Laird of Halyairds and Mr William Bell, the Presbytrie ordeanes Mr William Bell to confess his fault of callumnie aganest the Laird of Halyairds befoir the Presbytrie, and to crave the Laird heartlie pardon thairfoir, under the paine of disobedience whilk decreit Mr William Bell willinglie obeyed, and the Laird most willinglie acceptit. Mr John Chalmer is appoyntit to preache in Kinglessie the nixt Sabbath, Mr John Moncrief in Leslie, and Dysert to preache in Weyms.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . My Lord of Scottstarvet and John Betone of Balfour in the name of the parochiners of Kilrynnie having produced ane supplicatioun

craveing Mr Mungo Law to be transplanted from Dysert to the said kirk of Kilrynnie and for strengthning thairof, gave in this day to the Presbytrie the wreatts following viz., a petition subscryved be the heretors and elders of the parochin of Kilrynnie of the dait March 30. Item, ane act of the Presbytrie of St Androis, allowing the samyn of the dait March 31. Thirdlie, the Kings Maties gift of presentatioun to the said kirk of Kilrynnie in favors of Mr Mungo Law of the dait the 13 of March last, direct to the Presbytrie of St Androis, whilk wee the commissioners foirsaid thinks that be itself is sufficient for enjoying the said place and hopes that seing the samyn is so gratiouslie direct be his Matie to the Presbytrie whilk hes not bein done befoir be his Matie, and thairfoir they expect sall not be refused, whereby his Matie may be put to further trouble in granting any other presentatioun in favours of others to the said kirk.

The Presbytrie haveing considered the said supplicatioun of the parochiners of Kilrynnie and the reasons for strengthing of it and namelie that taken from the Kings Maties presentatioun finds that the supplicatioun has not come orderlie to us from the Presbytrie of St Androis and that we have hard yit no reason valid to move us to yeild to the desyred transportatioun and that that whilk they compt thair strongest reason taken from the Kings Maties presentatioun foirsaid maks most aganest themselfs becauss it is aganest ane act of the Generall Assemblie; also the Laird of Blaikburn, Mr Thomas Murray, Mr Georg Law, David Crystie, parochiners of Dysert opposed the said transportatioun.

A letter being direct from the Presbytrie of Elgin and Murray craveing the Presbytrie advyce anent Mr Robert Tod his presentatioun to the kirk of Rothess the Presbytrie in respect that they know not the nature of the kirk referrs thair anser till the Assemblie. Mr John Moncrief nominat Mr William Bett for the schole and Reidership of Kingorne desyreing that he may be tryed for that effect. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law to try him. Anent James Roger his persute of slander befoir the sessioun of Markinche the said James alledging Mr Frederik Carmichell to be partiall to him. The said Mr Frederik purged himself be his oath of partialitie.

The said James Roger being not heirwith content called the said Mr Frederick malicious befoir the Presbytrie whereupon Mr Frederik desyred that he myt have process aganest the said James whilk was grantit to him and he sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire this day fyftein dayes to anser thairto. The brethren being removed *per vices* for thair tryells each praises God for others. Mr James Symeson, Mr Thomas Hogg chosen for this Presbytrie for the Moderatorshipp of the Assemblie. Mr Robert Cranstowne appoyntit to handel the Cowmonhead nixt.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 15, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr Mungo Law being put to leit Mr Frederik be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator who acceptit the samyne. Mr Robert Cranstowne is appoyntit to handel the Cowmonhead the nixt day *De Antichristo*. Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law declaired that

they had tryed Mr William Bett in his gramer and fynds him qualified for any schole. Mr John Moncrief is appoyntit to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath, Mr Harie Wilkie in Kinglessie, and Mr James Baxter in Leslie. Anent the releiveing of Mr Thomas Melvill from Newcastell the Presbytrie ar to advyse aganest the nixt day. James Ray being referred from the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie gave in ane supplication desyreing that he may have the benefit of mariage, his Wyff haveing depairted from him five years since being distracted of hir witts and was niver hard of or sen synce syne whereas befoir she niver travelled a myle without the burgh. The Presbytrie grants that he sall have the benefit of mariage. Also haveing sein ane other sufficient testimonial of Mr Edward Bigholme from Edr of his satisfaction thair grants that he sall have the benefit of mariage.

Compeired James Roger of Balbreikie whom the Presbytrie acknowledges to have done ane great wrong to Mr Frederik Carmichaell, calling him malicious. The said James is content to acknowledge the samyne and to crave Mr Frederik pardon who accepted of the samyne. It is appoyntit that heirafter that except it be a veri urgent occasioun that the Presbytrie sall sit no longer than the space of tuo hours.

DYSERT, *April* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr Thomas Melvlls relief from the armie the brethren appoynts Mr William Bell to repair thither to relieve him, who accepts of the samyne.

The brethren appoynts Mr John Chalmer to proceed aganest Mr James Abercrombie till he satisfie the decreit given out aganest him. Mr James Symson is appoyntit to preache in the Weyms on Sonday nixt Mr William Bell in Leslie.

Compeired Allan Nicol and Alison Williamsone in Weyms: confessed thair adulterie: remitted to thair sessioun. Mr Mungo Law and Mr Robert Cranstowne paid thair Clerk fies. Compeired John Mowtray desyreing his tyme of repentance to be schortened being trelapse in fornicatioun. The brethren adyses the minister to enter him to his repentance and that if he finds him dispossed to deale with him. Compeired Kathren Beanes trelapse in fornicatioun: appoyntit to satisfie as ane adultress. The brethren ar content to subscryve Mr Frederik Carmichell his presentation. Ordeanes the act aganest the fugitives from the armie to be intimate agane out of the several pulpetts.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie being sowmonit be the decreit aganest him publiklie pro 1 not giveing obedience is ordeaned to be sowmonit the nixt Sabbath pro 2. Compeired James Lorn who had confessed befoir the Sessioun of Auchterdirran that his sone had put hand in him bot now passing from it the brethren remitts him to the sessioun of Auchterdirran to be censured thair and ordeanes his sone to be proceeded aganest. The whilk day the Generall Leslie and Mr Thomas Melvill haveing written to the Presbytrie that the said Mr Thomas

may be releived from the armie the brethren now as befoir appoynts Mr William Bell to repair thither for his relief with diligence, who promeises so to doe.

Mr Frederik Carmichell his presentation to the Kirk of Markinche subscryvit be the brethren.

Mr John Chalmer, younger, haveing produced the compt of charges debursit be his father upon the kirk manss of Auchterdirran exped desyreing the samyne to be inserted in the Presbytrie book the brethren grants that it sallbe and ordeanes the clerk to insert the samyne. Letter produced from Cristian Scrimgeor dochter to Mr Alexander Scrimgeor, minister of Kingorne, desyreing of the brethren that they wold be pleased to meitt at Kingorne for settling Mr John Moncrief present minister thair and hir anent the manss and some things debaitable betwixt them, the brethren ar content to meitt thair the nixt Thursday for that effect.

KINGORNE, *May* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the controversie betwixt Mr John Moncrief and Cristian Scrimgeor, the brethren having hard them both finds that Mr John Moncrief offers all reason to hir, and that she not being able to secure him anent the piece yaird they cannot compell him, desyres hir to chuse tuo or thrie men to deale in that mater betwixt them. David Carmichaell in Bameadie, parochiner of the kirk of Dron, produced ane act of the Presbytrie of Perth, togither with ane letter of request for transportatioun of Mr William Bell from the kirk of Auchtertule to the kirk of Dron, according to ane reference from the Provincial Assemblie of Fyfe holden at Cuper, to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie for that effect, whereto the brethren yields upon this conditioun, that Mr William Bell sall repair to the armie for relief of Mr Thomas Melvill, and stay tuo monthes thair, and after his return sall designe a time for his transportatioun.

The Presbytrie acquieses to the decreit of the Sessioun of Auchterdirran aganest James Lorn.

The compt of the expenses debursit upon repaireing the kirk Manss of Auchterdirran be Mr John Chalmer, elder minister at the said kirk, appoyntit be the Presbytrie to be registrat etc., being valued and apprysed be tuo craftsmen sworne to that effect in presence of Mr William Bell, minister at Auchtertule, and James Betson ruleing elder direct be the Presbytrie thither for that effect.—*In primis* for the stone work of the towr head being builded from beneath the solestone of the upper north windo in the turnpyk and round about the tour four cunzie height for workmanshipp and materialls, approven to be 140 merks.

Item for timber thairto at the first foir roof and workmanshipp and caryag, 42 lbs. 6 sh. 8d. Item for nauls, 32 sh. Item for great nauls to the balks, 24 sh. Item for timber thairafter to help the cuppelles in roofe, 5 lbs. Item for working thairof, 30 sh. Item for nauls, 16 sh. Item for glass to the laigh chalmer windo, 3 lbs. Item for glass to the litill windo thairin, 16 sh. Item for the glass bands, 18 sh. Item for the laying of some deales in the upper laft, 40 sh. Item for working thairof, 13 sh. 4d. Item for bands and hinges to tuo stone almeries in

the laigh chalmer, 12 sh. Item for timber to be lids thairto, and tuo windos in the stair and makeing 22 sh. Item for casting and winning thrie theusand dovats, 30 sh. Item for 3 men 3 dayes, for bearing to the houshead, 54 sh. Item to theakers and casters up 7 merks. Item the parpan wall approven in the houshead 4 dozen of sparrs, 36 sh. Item for caryag thairof. Item to Patrik Murray for his servands working it, 20 sh. Item for nauls thairto, 6 sh. and 8d. Item for clay, leading a man and horse tuo dayes, 16 sh. Item for makeing to Simon Hird and other tuo men tuo dayes, 36 sh. Item for beareing up the clay to a man tuo dayes, 10 sh. Item for winding and plaistering it to David Lilie and Andro Grieve tuo dayes, 36 sh. Item for spargeing and carrying up the lime, 14 sh. Item for a load of lime, 4 sh. Item for the upper laft durr, 20 sh. Item for the doore besyd it, 10 sh. Item for makeing of them, 10 sh. Item for cruiks, bands, and a sneck to them, 16 sh. Item for keys and locks, 16 sh. Item for timber and makeing the entrie upon the stairhead, 18 sh. Item for tuo deales to the heigh windoes and one on thestair, 6 sh. Item for workmanshipp of them, 13 sh. and 4d. Item for carriage, 6 sh. Item to the laigh chalmer windoe and workmanshipp being oak, 3 lbs. Item for the mid chalmer windoe and workmanshipp, 30 sh. Item for glass to it, 46 sh. Item for makeing of the entrie and calseying of it, 48 sh. Item for leading the stones and serving the man, 48 sh. Item for the Brew houss chimney making, 7 lbs. Item for way-fairing the floore of it, 12 sh. Item for building a dyk at the west side of the towr, and leading the materialls, 4 lbs. Item for takeing in the half of the inner yaird from the towr east, and putting the hedge about it, 7 lbs. 8 sh. Item for digging and leading the stones to the east dyk in the inner yaird 4 merks. Item for the doore thairto, cheiks, cruiks, workmanship and lock, 24 sh. Item for the oven approven for stones to the sole of it, 52 sh. Item for caryage from the Weyms for 13 men and horss, 3 lbs. Item to John Thomson for working and laying of it, 10 merks. Item for sand leading, 24 sh. Item to William Thomsone and his sone for 6 days work thairafter thairto, 3 lbs. Item for lime thairto, 40 sh.

The compt of expense debursit upon the laigh hall estimat be the workman themselfs and approven in compt *in primis* for the materialls of the mason work and leading, with workmanshipp thairof, 140 merks. Item for timber to the cuppell back and lath, 30 lbs. 4 sh. Item for timber to the rinruiffe, 40 sh. Item for caryag thairof from Levin, 6 lbs. Item for custome, 20 sh. Item for knitting of cuppil and rinruiffe, 12 lbs. Item for timber to the parpan wall therein, 1 lb. 10 sh. Item for caryag, 56 sh. Item for timber to fixed bedd within the parpan wall, 8 merks. Item for setting up the bedd and parpan, 10 lbs. Item for portall, and hall durs, timber and workmanshipp, 8 merks. Item for timber and workmanshipp to the thrie hall windoes, 6 lbs. Item for fixed buird head and furme thairto, timber and workmanshipp, 4 lbs. 8 sh. Item for the almerie fixed at the back thairof, 4 lbs. Item for timber to the haill chimney caryag and workmanshipp, 15 lbs. 8 sh. Item for clay leading and workmanshipp of the chimney, 8 lbs. 16 sh. Item for weshell, bink, timber, caryag and workmanshipp, 5 merks. Item for stauncher, oak and working, 2 merks. Item for the transdoor, 2 merks. Item for

the yaird gate, timber and workmanshipp, 2 merks. Item to the glass-wright for glass to it and the windoes of the stair, 8 lbs.

Compt of the Smith-work estimate and approven. *In primis* for nauls to the hall chimney lath and parpen, tuo thousand 7 hundreth, whereof 200 hundreth and ane half door nauls, 10 sh, tuo thousand four hundreth and ane half plencher nauls at six sh. and 8d., the hundreth, inde, 8 lbs. 3 sh. and 4d. Item for thirtie double overlapp nauls, and nauls to the balks, 15 sh. Item for four hundreth overlapp nauls to Alexander Smith, 4 lbs. 4 sh. Item for lock and key bands and sneck thairto, 46 sh. and 8d. Item for bands and sneck to the portall doore, 24 sh. Item for tuo pair bands to the parpan bedd, 16 sh. Item for bands to the footgang thairat, with lock and key thairto, 12 sh. and 8d. Item for tuo iron staunchers, 10 sh. Item for windoe bands to the laigh hall, and weshellbink, 40 sh. Item for bands, lock, and key to the litill pantrie in the hall, 20 sh. and 8. Item for lock, key, bands and sneck to the transedoor, 28 sh. Item for staples, bands, and lock to the yaird gate, 24 sh. Item for bands and lock to the fixed ambrie at the buird-head, 18 sh. Item for rings and snecks to the mid chalmer door and other tuo doors, 12 sh. Item for bands, snecks, and rings to the laigh chalmer windoe, 29 sh. Item for bands to the mid chalmer windoe, 16 sh. Item the theaking of the laigh hall estimat be the workman and approven 5 darg of dovats, 40 sh. Item for 8 horss ane day, four ane other to lead them, 4 merks. Item for prickes thairto, 20 sh. Item for caryng and makeing of them, 2 merks. Item for theaking and giveing up the dovats, 4 lbs. 16 sh.

Compt of the studie estimate and approven. Item for deales, 5 lbs. Item for working it, 4 lbs. 10 sh. Item for the carag of the timber, 20 sh. Item for nauls, lock, key, and bands thairto, 30 sh. Item for scrowes and sparging of the chalmer, 16 sh.

Compt of the expense debursit upon the office houses, estimate be the workman pryced and approven be them, *in primis*, for building ane half of the barn, costing it for bigging a part of the stable, righting the gavells of the byre, and bigging the back wall of it, bigging the henhouse new for materiall and workmanshipp, 24 lbs. Item for timber to the barn, 10 lbs. Item for tuo durrs to it with cruiks and bands thairto, 4 lbs. Item for a lock thairto, 13 sh. 4d. Item for wining of dovats and theaking the barn, 4 merks. Item for timber to the byre and work, 5 lbs. Item for doors to the stable and byre, with cruiks, bands, and working, 3 lbs. 10 sh. Item for keys, and locks to them, 16 sh. Item for timber to the henhouse, with lock, key, and bands, 3 lbs. 6 sh. Item for theaking and casting dovats, and timbering stable byre and hen-house, 6 lbs. Item for laying stable and byre, and leading stones thairto, 40 sh.

Wee, Mr William Bell and James Betsone does testifie that upon the 8 day of March, 1641, according to the appoyntment of the Presbytrie, went to the Kirk manss of Auchterdirran, and haveing taken Robert Arnett, mason, and William Davidsone, wright, solemlie sworne, did visite the said manss, who after inspection according to thair conscience and knowledge, did depone that the charges debursit be Mr John Chalmer, elder, upon the said Kirk manss was trulie valued be them in

everie particular as is above written in witness whereof wee have subscryvit thir presents.

Sic subscribitur,

Mr WILLIAM BELL, Minister at Auchtertule.
JAMES BETSONE of Conthill.

Wee Elders, undersubscryvers and Deacons of the Sessioun of Auchterdirrane does allou of the foirsaid compts and knows of nothing whereby we may empair the same. Given be us and ordeanes ane act of sessioune to beare the samyne with consent of the haill sessioun, ye 2 day of Maii 1641.

Sic Subscribitur,

JAMES COLVILL.
THOMAS DICK.
JOHN TOD.
ROBERT KILLGOUR.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer is appoynted to preache in Leslie the nixt Sabbath, Mr Mungo Law in Auchtertule, Mr Robert Tod in Kinglessie, Mr Robert Bruce in Weyms . . . Compeired John Bonallie in Weyms, accused of ane bairne with Margit Kay: refered to the sessioun of Dysert.

DYSERT, *Maii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter from the clerk to the Synod for his fie: the brethren appoynts to bring it with him the nixt day. Anent the visitatioun of the kirks the brethren resolves to visit them and to begin at Dysert and so foorth orderlie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Hogg demaunding if he may admitt James Roger to the communione who is lying under ane slander not proven yit not cleired: anserit, not. James Abercrombie being thryse publicklie sowmonit to obey the decreit given out aganest him, and not given obedience, ordered to be declaired contumacious and to be proceided aganest to excommunicatioun.

DYSERT, *Juni* 3, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie being sowmonit, called: compeired not: declaired contumacious and ordered to be proceided aganest to excommunicatioun. Frederick Carmichell appoynted to preache in Weyms the nixt Sabbath, Mr Mr Thomas Melvill in Leslie, Grant libertie to Mr Josua Meldrum to preache in Auchtertule. A letter direct from the Provest and Baillies of Edinburt and ane other from the Presbytrie thair desyreing Mr Georg Gilespie, his transportatioun thither to be haistened. Anser continewed till Mr Georg return from the armie and also that the Erle of Weyms be hard. A letter being direct from the Presbytrie of St Androis anent the goeing and standing of salt pans: appoynts thair letter to anserit bot that we rest not upon what is done for the present, bot aimes at further reformatioun.

The visitatiouns to begin at Dysert and the second kirk to be Kinglessie, the minister and ruleing elder desyreing the samyne. Mr Robert Cranstown to preache in Dysert. The Synod book appoynted to be read and considered be Mr Mungo Law. Commissioners for the Generall Assemblie to be remembrat.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie being sowmonit the last Sabbath under paine of excommunicatioun to obey the decreit given out aganest him, pro 1 giving no obedience is appoynted to be proceided aganest. Mr Joshua Meldrum produceing ane testimoniall from the Presbytrie of Forfar of his qualificatioun and good behaviour permitted to preache at Auchtertule.

Mr Thomas Melvill is appoynted to preache at Weyms nixt Sabbath, Mr Robert Tod to preache for him. Mr Thomas Melville appoynted to baptize John Brysones bairne at Weyms the nixt Sabbath. A letter resaved from Markinche for the clerk to the Assemblie.

DYSERT, *Junii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombie being sowmonit, pro 2, giving no obedience is appoynted to be sowmonit pro 3. The Presbytrie approves the act of the Sessioun of Kingorne anent the peice yaird adjoyneing to the kirk manss and ordeanes the samyn to be insert in the Presbytrie book.

The nixt day apponted for chuseing commissioners for the General Assemblie to be holden at St Androis. Mr Thomas Hogg reported that he had payed fyve hundreth merks to Mr Frederick Carmichell for the kirk manss of Kennoquhie, whilk the said Mr Frederik acknowledged to be of veritie desyreing the samyn to be minute in the Presbytrie book *ad futuram rei memoriam*. Skunie payed 2 merk for the clerk to the assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 24.

The whilk day the brethren concludes to begin thair visitatiouns the nixt Thursday, and to begin with Dysert and thairafter to Kirkcaldie. The whilk day it is appoyntit that these who neglects and refuses to communicate be dealt with be the authoritie of the Presbyterie. 2 merks resaved from Burntiland to the Clerk of the Assemblie. Compeired Alexander Weyms and Margaret Pringle in Weyms the said Margaret haveing brought foorth ane bairne, and fathered the samyne upon the said Alexander who confesses copulation with hir, bot says the bairne comes not to his tyme. The Presbytrie ordeanes the said Margaret to give hir oath of veritie that she speakes truth in so alledgeing and thairafter he to tak with the bairne, whereto the said Alexander agrees. Mr Frederik Carmichell, moderator, Mr Mungo Law, Mr Robert Cranstowne, chosen commissioners for the ensueing Generall Assemblie to be holden at St. Androis upon Tysday the 20 day of Julii, and my Lord Sinclair, ruleing Elder. The Presbytrie appoynts the Clerk to writt thair commissioun of the whilk commissioun the tenor follows. At Kirkcaldie the 14 day of Junii, 1641.

The whilk day after incalling upon the name of God, the minister and ruleing elders of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, knoweing the Generall Assemblie at Aberdein Julii last, 1640, to have appoyntit the nixt Generall Assemblie to be held at St Androis in Julii 1641, did be thir presents nominate Mr Frederik Carmichaell, minister at Markinche, Moderator; Mr Mungo Law, minister at Dysert, Mr Robert Cranstowne, minister at Skunie, and the veri Noble Lord My Lord Sinclair, ruleing elder for the barrones conjunctlie and severallie our lawfull commissioners giveing and granting to them our full power commissioun express charge to repaire to the said Assemblie upon Tysday, the 20 day of Julii foirsaid, and thair with the rest of the members of the Assemblie who sallbe authorised with lawfull commissions in our name to propone treat, reason, voyce, and conclude in all maters that sall occur according to the word of God, and Confessioun of Faith approven be sundrie Generall Assemblies received throughout the whole kingdom in all ecclesisticall maters competent to a frie Generall Assemblie, and tending to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ and good of religioun as they will anser to God and his kirk thairupon, and to report thair diligence thairin.—In testification of this commissioun and charge wee have subscryved thir presents with our hands that they have accepted the said commissioun with oath and lifted up hands. Given at Kirkcaldie, the 24 day of Junii instant, 1641 years.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Dysert holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be Mr Frederik Carmichell, minister at Markinche, Moderator; Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie; Mr John Moncrief, minister at Kingorn; Mr Andro Lislie, minister at Burtiland; Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie; Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran; Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Portmook; Thomas Hogg, minister at Kennoquhie; Mr Robert Cranstowne, minister at Skunnie, who preached the said day, text, Mal. 2, 7. Mr William Nairne and Mr Mungo Law, ministers at the said kirk of Dysert, and ruleing elders, the Lairds of Halyairds, Blaikburn, Inchderine, Viccersgraunge, Coull, Georg Gairdens, Leslie Weyms.

Edict returned indorsat with the names of the elders. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryells, the elders praised God for them and approved them both in thair doctrine, and in thair lyves and conversatiouns. All persons who had anything to object aganes the ministers being called upon thryce at the kirk durr: none compeired. The minister and reider being called in agane, and the elders being removed for thair tryells the ministers praises God for them, speciallie the magistrats who concurrs with them verie readillie in punishing sinne, and holding hand to dicipline, and approves them and the rest lykewayes, both in thair attendance and concurrence and also in thair lyves and conversatiouns. The brethren recommends the elders that they be cairfull to have ane Doctor to thair scole. The brethren also recommends to the elders of Dysert, that they keip the examinatiouns better. Mr John Moncrief reportit that he had conferred with the young Laird of Balmowto anent his comeing to the kirk and communicating, whose anser (as he reportit) was not satisfactorie. The Presbytrie appoynts him to deale with him agane, and to tak tuo or thrie elders with him.

James Abercrombie being thryce publicklie sowmonit to obey decreit given out aganest him, under the paine of excomunicatioun giveing no obedience: ordeanes the minister to proceed aganest him with the sentence.

Compeired Kathren Simson desyreing that Patrik McKairran his proclamatiouns may be stayed alledgeand hir to have ane promeise of mariage of him. The Presbytrie ordeanes hir to persew him aganest the nixt day in Kirkcaldie, and in the meantime ordeanes the reiders of Kirkcaldie and Dysert to desist from further proclamatiouns.

Janet Nicolson in Auchterdirran haveing satt some dayes upon the stool of publik repentance for slanderous conversatioun with after she was discharged, ordeaned to begin hir repentaunce agane, *de novo*.

The Sessioun book of Dysert appoyntit to be visited be Mr James Symeson. The Presbytrie approves the towne and Magistrats of Dysert in warding John Layng of St Androis who has left his owne wyff and runn away with ane other woman. To advyse the nixt day anent Mr William Bells return from the armie. To meitt the nixt day at the visitatioun of Kirkcaldie. The visitation of the kirk of Kinglessie is continewed for some space in respect of the absence of some heritors who cannot be present, and thairfoir Mr Robert Cranstowne is appoyntit to handel the Cowmonhead the said day.

The names of the elders and heritors of Dysert.

South-west quarter.

John, Lord Sinclair	M Thomas Murray	Alexr Chisolme
Sir Georg Hamilton	Georg Scott	Thomas Wilson
David Setowne	David Symsone	Alexr Symsone
Robert Symsone	David Crystone	James Guthrie
William Symsone	Georg Gaii	John Gaii
Georg Lundie	Thomas Richardsone	Andro Johnsone
James Law	Patrik Stirk	Patrik Murray

North-east quarter.

Duncan Weyms	Georg Hart	Archbald Halkhead
Robert Yule	John Mackie	

South-east quarter.

David Corsall	Robert Corsall	Crispine Swyne
Archbald Robertsone	Robert Keddie	

North-west quarter.

Mr Georg Law	Andro Thomson	William Gaii
Robert Lessells		

Peathhead.

David Tode	Andro Fluiker	Robert Fluiker
John Fluiker	William Melvill	Thomas Cock

The Landwart.

David Dowie	Crispine Swyne	James Thomson
Crispine Swyne		

Julii, 8, 1641.

The visitatioun of the paroshe kirk of Kirkcaldie, holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne, be Mr Frederik Carmichell, minister of Markinche, Moderator; Mr Robert Cranstowne, minister of Skunie, Mr Thomas Hogg, minister at Kennoquhie, Mr William Nairne, minister at Dysert, who preached the said day Tex, Heb. 13. 7. Mr John Moncreif, minister at Kingorne, Mr. Robert Bruce, minister at Ballingrie, Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Portmook, Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, and Mr James Symeson, minister at the said kirk.

Ruleing elders present, the Lairds of Arnett, Halyairds, Fingask, Vicarsgraunge, Inchdernie, Duncan Weyms. Edict returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders.

Mr Thomas Powtie appoyntit to preache in Weyms the nixt day. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryells, the elders all in one voyce did approve them both in thair doctrine, offices, and lyff, and conversatioun. The minister and reider being returned and the elders being removed for thair tryells, the minister praised God for them and approved them in thair callings. All persons called upon at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the minister, reider, or elders to compeire and be hard : none compeired.

A supplicatioun being presented be nobelmen, gentellmen, and burgesses of the Burgh of Kirkcaldie (the Laird of Bogie ansering for Dalhousie, and My Lord Melvill testifieing his consent be his letter), desyreing Mr Mungo Law to be transportit from Dysert to Kirkcaldie, the town of Dysert compeireing, objected aganest the samyne, and would no way consent to the transportatioun.

The brethren desyres them to tak the mater to hart, and wishes them rather to consent thairto, than that the said Mr Mungo sould be transported without the bownds of the Presbytrie. Mr James Symeson declaired that he had visited the sessioun book of Dysert, and fand it defective in several things whilk he wished to be mendit. Mr Robert Todd appoyntit to preache at Leslie the nixt Sabbath, Mr William Nairne to visit the sessioun book of Kirkcaldie.

Compeired Alexander McKeirran and Kathren Simpsone, he be his great oath purgeing himself of all promeise of mariage with hir is absolved, and his proclamatiouns appoyntit to goe fordward, and the said Kathren curseing the said Alexander in the presence of the brethren, is appoyntit to be punished so soon as she hes weaned her bairne. Ordeanes Mr John Moncrief to deall farther with the Laird of Balmowto, and if he get no satisfactorie answer of him to cause cite him aganest the nixt day. Walter Pittillock, and Kathren Wallace, to mak thair repentance.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of the parochine of Kirkcaldie—

William, Erle of Dalhousie	John Law of Melvill
My Lord of Innerteyle	John Weyms of Bogie
Georg Bosuell of the West Mill	David Symeson of Smetone
David Melvill in Raith	

Town—

James Law William Anderson } Baillies	James Denisone William Kyninmonth	John Hutchen Georg Hutchen	

Robert Anderson
John Law
Frances Hogg
William Turpie
James Whyte
Georg Berrie
William Williamsone
John Whyte
Alexander Law
John Hogg
William Tape
John Gillespie
Thomas Whyte
William Tennent
Mathew Andersone
Robert Hutchen
James Whyte
James Law
John Colyear
William Hird
William Bervie
Alexander Bosuell
Thomas Wilson
James Colyear
James Hay
William Melvill
John Williamsone
John Wyss
Alexander Law
John Hogg
James Whyte
John Tennant
Alexander Hird
Thomas Allan
Archbald Hay
Robert French
Alexander Law
David Bosuell
James Law
Mr Harie Melvill
Archbald Grieve
Thomas Bosuell
David Duncan
John Mastertone
William Balfour
William Young
Henrie Miller
John Palmer
David Lamb
John Adamson
Robert Whyte
Robert Lindsay
John Tennent
Mathew Andersone
Frances Hutchen
James Brown
James Bosuell
Robert Bennett
Thomas Wilson
James Meldrum
William Michaelson

David Knox in Torbean
Thomas Lamb in Raith
Andro Kennedie in Abbotshall
Patrik Gairdner in Balwearie
John Philp in Pitcowmark
James Allan in Balwearie
David Anderson in Skarrs
Georg Tode in Muirhouses

Ane act of the sessioun of Kingorne appoyntit to be registrat upon the 7 of Junii whereof the tenor follows."—At Kingorne Junii 15. The whilk day the Minister and sessioun being conveind in the ordinar meitting house to wit Mr John Moncrief Minister, Sr John Scott of Scotstarvit, Knyt anent the supplication given be Cristian Scrimgeor relict of Umqll Mr David Ramsay Minister of Cartoquhie makand mentioun that where Umqll Mr John Scrimgeor sometime minister at the kirk of Kingorne had disponed to Umqll Mr Alexr Scrimgeor laite minister of the said kirk ane peice of yaird lyand contigue to the yaird of the manss of this kirk and that for the soume of ane hundreth merks paid be the said Umqll Mr Alexr to the said Umqll Mr John Scrimgeor whilk piece of yaird now perteynes to Mr David Scrimgeor lawfull sone of the said Mr Alexr be his fathers deceas, and that the said Mr David Scrimgeor be his letters of procuratorie subscryvit be his hand with the dait the 10 day of October 1639 years hes given and grantit full power and commissioun to the said Cristian to dispone any kynd of tittill ryt or propertie whatsumever whilk apperteynes or may apperteyn to the said Mr David and thairfoir desyreing the said minister and sessioun to pay to hir as procuratrix foirsaid the said sowme of ane hundreth merks for the whilk she sall mak dispositioun of the said piece of yaird as procuratrix for hir said brother to the

minister and sessioun of this said kirk of Kingorne or to any other person or persons they pleased and the raither becauss she hes had the burden of the said Umqll Mr Alexr Scrimgeor his bairnes ever since his decease.

The said minister and sessioun having tane the said supplicatioun to thair consideratioun they all in one voyce ordeane the sowme of ane hundreth merks money to be tane forth of thair poors box and be delyverit to the said Cristian Scrimgeor in name and behalf of the said Mr Dav Scrimgeor hir brother for the pryce of the said piece of yaird for the whilk sowme of ane hundreth merks she as procuratrix for hir said brother sall mak disposition of the said piece of yaird to the sessioun of the kirk of Kingorne and thair successors and becauss the said Mr John Moncrief minister of the said kirk craves the use of the said piece of yaird dureing his remaining at this kirk the said sessioun ordeanes him to have the use thairof he paying always to the poors box of this kirk eight merks money for the ordinar annellrent of the said sowme of ane hundreth merks and the nixt intrant minister to pay the sowme of ane hundreth merks befoir he get possessioun of the said piece of yaird otherwayes if he refuses the sesioun of this kirk for the tyme to have power to dispone the said piece of yaird to whatsumever person or persons they please.

DYSERT, *Julii* 16, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the supplicatioun given in the last day be the parochine of Kirkcaldie, sutting Mr Mungo Law to be thair minister, Sr Georg Scott of Scottstarvit, Knyt, protests that nothing be done thairanent in predjudice to him.

It is concluded and agreed upon be the brethren that if any brother be appoyntit be the Presbytrie to preache in any kirk within the bownds, that if he sall supplie that place be any actual minister it sall be allowed. The parochiners of Dysert compeireing, refused anyways to condesend to Mr Mungo Laws transportatioun. The Presbytrie having hard them and some also of the parochiners of Kirkcaldie, they ar content to continew all till the Assemblie Generall, to be holden at St Androis on Tysday nixt.

James Abercrumbies process given in to be considered.

Motion being maid anent the reparation of kirks upon what expense the samyne shall be repaired, the brethren thinks it not meitt that they sould be repaired by the collectiouns to the poor. Mr John Moncrief minister at Kingorne, reported that he had spoken with the Laird of Balmowto, who affirmed that men liveing under the professioun and libertie of the gospell may be saifed without the means. Appoynts the said Mr John and Mr James Symeson and Mr Andro Leslie to goe and deale yit further with him. Mr Harie Wilkie being to goe to the armie as he was appoyntit, the brethren faithfullie promeises and ar content to bind themselfs, to pay his charges as they have done to others in caice he get no pay at the armie, and supplie his place in his absence and Mr Nairne to begin. The Presbytrie thinks reason that the commissioners to the Assemblie have thair expenses paid, bot desyres that the Assemblie may determine how.

Compeired John Ferrie and Isobell Gibb, the said Isobell affirming hir to be with bairne to the said John, he denying copulatioun with hir, Candelmes Even being the tyme that she alledgit: the mater continewed till the bairne be born.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 19, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr William Nairne appoyntit to preache at Portmook. James Ramsay a poore man gave in ane petitioun for support.

DYSERT, *September* 9.

The whilk day . . . . The Laird of Bogie haveing sent ane supplicatioun. craveing that his sister may be maried to the Laird of Orrok upon twyse proclamatioun for syndrie good and weightie reasons, whilk the Presbytrie haveing sein and being thairto rytlie advysed, grants.

Elspeth Gudlad in Dysert, confesssing adulterie with John Hepburn to get hir bairne baptised.

Compeired Henrie Meldrum in the paroshe of Kingorne for disobedience to the kirk: ordeaned to be wardit till he find cautioun to obey.

Compeired David Betson of Cardone craveing of the Presbytrie a dispensatioun for a tyme from his paroshe kirk of Kingorne, in respect of the great distance from it, and that he may have the benefit of mariage and baptism at Auchterdirran, as also that the Presbytrie wold concurr with him to deale with the Parliament that his lands may be disjoyned from the paroshe of Kingorne and adjoined to Auchterdirran. The Presbytrie grants to his sute, bot in the meantyme ordeanes him to be diligent with the Parliament, and to causs his people to keip the kirk of Auchterdirran, otherwayes to be censured be thair owne kirk of Kingorne.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . James Abercrombies process continewed to the nixt day. Compeired Elspett Gudlad relapse adultress with John Hepburn: ordeaned to sit ane year upon the stool of repentance: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Marie Lamb ane Englishe woman, alledgeing promeise of mariage upon William Colyear in Kingorne, fornicatioun proceeding the samyne: continewed till the nixt day and he ordeaned to be sowmonit thairto.

DYSERT, *September* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Colyear and Marie Lamb the said Marie alledging promise of mariage of him. He is ordeaned to purge himself be his oath: she refuses to referr it to his oath: gives hir this day eight dayes to advyse. Compeired Henrie Birrell craveing of the Presbytrie that they admitt his goodsone to be maryit upon twyse proclamatioun seing (being ane sailor) he is upon the head of his voyage. The Presbytrie grants his petitioun.

Compeired Margaret Steinsone adultress with Henrie Allison in the parochine of Auchtertule: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Mr Frederik Carmichell produced

the Kings Maties presentatioun to the kirk of Markinche craveing collatioun thairupon whilk was grantit and the clerk appoyntit to writt the samyne.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 30.

The whilk day ℣ . . . Mr James Baxter craveing ane testimonial it was grantit to him and the clerk appoyntit to writt the samyn. Mr John Moncrief reportit that although Henrie Meldrum had fownd caution to obey the kirk of Kingorne and that he being wardit till he fownd the Laird caution to obey and that both he and his cawtioner wer personallie sowmonit to that effect yit he had given no obedience. The tryell of the brethren passed over in respect of the raritie of the meitting.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 14, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . The Laird of Bogie proponed to the Presbytrie that they wold transport Mr John Smith from the kirk of Leslie to the kirk of Kirkcaldie according to ane act of reference from the Provincial Assemble whilk he produced. The Presbytrie appoynts the parochiners of Kirkcaldie and with them tuo of the brethren viz Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr John Moncrief to deale with the Erle of Rothess his friends for transportatioun of Mr John Smith and wilbe content to suffer him to transport otherwayes that they may designe a day to be hard why they will not. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Andro Lesslie to preache at Markinche upon Sonday come eight dayes in respect Mr Frederik Carmichell is appoyntit to attend upon the Parliament and in caise he be not able Mr John Chalmer younger is appoyntit to goe thither.

James Bedsone of Carden for himself and in name and on behalf of some others of the parochine of Auchterdirran gave in ane supplicatioun craveing that Mr Edward Bigholme may be admitted and resaved be the brethren as scholemaster and reider at the kirk of Auchterdirran. The brethren continews thair anser till they know the ministers mynd thairanent.

Janet Nicholson compeireing desyreing of the brethren that seing hir husband hes bein eight years furth of the Countrie and no word from him (so that she supposes that he is dead) that she may have the benefit of mariage. The brethren ansers, they cannot, but remitts hir to the ordinar judge in sic maters.

Walkmilnes going upon the Sabbath day and caryeing of loads declaired to be a breache of the Sabbath.

Clerk fie paid from befoir the last Assemblie be Mr Robert Cranstowne, Mr Georg Gilespie, Mr Mungo Law, Mr John Moncrief, Mr John Chalmer, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Robert Bruce, Mr John Smith.

Item Mr Robert Cranstowne paid ane merk for the clerk to the Assemblie. Item to James Murray 20sh. Mr Georg Gilsespie paid to the clerk of the Assemblie 4 lbs resaved be Mr James Miller Clerk.

DYSERT, *October* 23, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent ane supplicatioun given be some of the parochiners of Auchterdirran for settleing of Mr Edward Bigholme scholemaster thair. Anser continewed till the minister be hard. Anent the decisioun of the questioun betwixt Mr Robert Bruce minister at Ballingrie and the relict of Mr David Anderson his predecessor, the anser continewed till the nixt day. Mr Robert Douglas minister at Edinburt and Mr Georg Leslie minister at Cannongaitt commissioners from the Presbytrie of Edinburt, Thomas Paterson and John Binnie commissioners from the towne and counsell of Edr compeiring with their several commissiouns craveing that the brethren wold be pleased to transport Mr Georg Gilespie minister at Weyms to the kirk at Edr, the brethren ansers that in respect the Provincial Assemblie of Fyffe had meddled with the mater of the transportatioun of the said Mr Georg from Weyms to St Androis (whereunto they consented) that ane committie appoyntit be the Assemblie to sit at Kirkcaldie the 3 Tysday of Novemb to desyde in that mater the mater being out of thair hands they cannot medell in it.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Bonar having sent ane letter from Edr requyreing that one other commissioner may be sent from the Presbytrie with Mr Frederik Carmichell, they appoynt Mr John Moncrief to be with him for attending the affairs of the kirk. The proces led aganest James Abercrombie be the minister of Auchterdirran, being committed be the Presbytrie to Mr William Nairne and Mr James Symeson to be revysed and tryed be them, they declaire it is lawfullie and orderlie preceided and thairfoir the brethren approve the samyne and subscryv it.

Anent Mr Edward Bigholme his supplicatioun: anser continewed to the nixt day.

Anent Harie Meldrum in the parochine of Kingorne who is ane ordinar breaker of the Sabbath, and being disobedient to the kirk, was declaired contumacious, the brethren advyses to causs him to mak his repentance upon the publik place of repentance, and to fyne him according to the Act of Parliament.

Mr Frederik Carmichell declaired that there was some stryffe in the kirk of Markinch anent the designing of ane seate in the kirk. The brethren appoynts Mrs Thomas Hogg, Robert Cranstowne, Mungo Law and John Smith, with thair ruleing elders to repair thither and settle the mater when Mr Frederik sall advertyse them to give him his collatioun. Mr Alexander Petre, minister at Forgowne, produced ane presentatioun from the Laird of Halyairds to the kirk of Auchtertule in favors of Mr Josua Meldrome: anser given be the brethren: they cannot accept of the samyne for the present, in respect it is not cleir to them that the kirk of Auchtertule is vacand.

DYSERT, *November* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Mr Edward Bigholme who confessed his fault of breakeing of the Sabbath. The brethren thinks him not yit sensible enough of his fault and thairfoir continewes him to the nixt day.

Compeired John Hepburn, adulterer with Elspett Gudlad: resaved his first injunctiouns. Compeired John Ferrie anent the bairne brought forth be Isobell Gibb in Weyms, fathered upon him be the said Isobell. The said John cannot deny copulatioun with hir, but suspects the bairne not to be his, otherwayes if the woman abyd constant in hir assertioun after tryell he is content to tak with the bairne.

Compeired James Henrysone ordeaned to finish his repentance in the kirk of the Weyms for his triple fornicatioun and promeise to obey.

Compeired Isobell Williamsone adultress with Allan Nicoll and resaved hir last injunctiouns.

A letter being direct from the Laird of Halyairds desyreing the brethren to admitt Mr Josua Meldrowme to his tryells to the kirk of Auchtertule. The Presbytrie appoynts the Moderator to writt to Mr William Bell that he be present the nixt day.

Mr Frederik Carmichell his collatioun to the kirk of Markinche and Kirkferther Registrat as follows—

Wee the ministers and ruleing elders of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, to all and syndrie the true professors of Gods Word wishes eternall salvatioun in the Lord Jesus—For so meikle as the King his Matie hes presented to us be his letters of presentatioun under his privie seall, our beloved brother, Mr Frederik Carmichell minister at Markinche, to the constant and locall steipend as modefied be the commissioners of Parliament whatsumever the samyn be, and to the augmentatioun thairof, if any hath bein grantit heireupon to the minister of the said kirk of Markinche, and to all mortificatiouns and dotationes and others perteining and belonging to them, and to whatsumever maner of steipend is or may be known to apperteine to the said kirk of Markinche, and to the minister serving the cure thairat manss gleib, and kirk lands thairof, with all rents, priveleges, profeits and commodities thairto belongeing, during all the dayes of the said Mr Frederik his lyff tyme, as also hes nominat and presented the said Mr Frederik to the kirk of Kirkferther, whilk is annexit be decreit to the kirk of Markinche, dureing his lyff tyme, and to the haill personage and viccarage thairof with manss and gleib perteinning thairto, with all rents, priveleges, profeits and commodities thairto belonging lyand within the diocie of St Androis serdom of Fyff and bownds of our Presbytrie vacand be depositioun of Mr Andro Lawmonth last pastor thairof, desyreing us to accept, resave and admitt the said Mr Frederik and provyd him to the kirks of Markinche and Kirkferther, and to the local steipend with gleibes and mansses and all things belongeing thairto as said is, and to give him our lawfull institutioun, collatioun, and full admissioun thairupon according to whilk letters of presentatioun wee understanding the qualificatioun, literatur, behaviour and honest conversatioun of Mr Frederik, and finding him apt and able to use and discharge the office of ane minister within the kirk of God, thairfoir hes admitted the said Mr Frederik Carmichell lykas be thir presents, wee admitt and resave the said Mr Frederik, minister at the said kirks of Markinche and Kirkferther, thairunto annexed be

decreit as said is to the local steipend thairof, and all ryteous pertinents perteineing thairto dureing all the dayes and terms of his lyftime, requyereing you our brethren Mr Mungo Law Moderator, Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Smith with your elders to pass with all convenient diligence to the kirks of Markinche and Kirkferther with the said Mr Frederik, and thair put him in actuall and reall possessioun of the local steipend thairof with manss housses, gleibs yairds, and all other ryteous pertinents perteineing to the samyne, desyreing also the Lords of our Soverane Lords counsell and sessioun to grant letters to the said Mr Frederik upon a simple charge of ten dayes warning ansering and obeying of him and makeing thankful payment to him his factors servands and others in his name of the said steipend, and others assigned or to be assigned in maner foirsaid, conform to his presentatioun, collatioun and admissioun on all poynts—In witness and for the more verificatioun thairof, wee have subscrybit thir presents with our hands at Kirkcaldie the 28 day of October instant, 1641 years.

ACT OF THE KIRK OF KINGORNE APPOYNTIT TO BE REGISTRAT *Junii* 17 AT DYSERT.

Junii, 15, 1641.

The whilk day the minister and sessioun of Kingorne, being conveined in thair ordinar meitting houss, viz. Mr John Moncrief minister, Sr John Scott of Scottstarvit, Knyt, anent the supplicatioun given in be Cristian Scrimgeor, relict of Umqll Mr David Ramsay, minister of Cortoquhie, makeing mentione that Umqll Mr John Scrimgeor sometime minister at the kirk of Kingorn, had disposed to Umqll Mr Alexander Scrimgeor late minister of the said kirk ane piece of yaird lyand contigue to the manss of this kirk, and that for the sowme of ane hundreth merks payit be said Umqll Mr Alexr to the said Umqll Mr John Scrimgeor whilk piece of yaird now apperteynes to Mr David Scrimgeor, laufull sone to the said Umqll Mr Alexr be his said fathers deceas and that the said Mr Dav Scrimgeor be his letters of procuratorie subscryvit be his hand of the dait the tenth day of October 1639 years hes given and grantit full power and commissioun to dispone onie kynd of title, ryt, or propertie whatsomever whik apperteynes or myt apperteyne to the said Mr David and thairfoir desyreing the said Minister and sessioun to pay to hir as procuratrix foirsaid, the said sowme of ane hundreth merks for the whilk she sall mak dispossitioun of the said piece of yaird as procuratrix for hir brother to the minister and sessioun of this kirk of Kingorn or to onie other person or persons.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 11, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer appoyntit to preache at Markinche the nixt Sabbath, who could not travel thither the last Sabbath the maters being so greate. Compeired Mr Edward Bigholme, who humblie acknowledgit his breake of the Sabbath, craveing God pardon thairfoir on his knees befoir the brethren to whom he gave satisfactioun : they ar content to tolerate him for a tyme to reid at the kirk of Auchterdirran, that his lyff and conversatioun may be tryed, and in the meantyme the brethren recommends to the minister and elders there present, that they be cairfull to provyd a settled maintenance for a scholmaster and reider.

Compeired also Mr William Bell, minister at Auchtertule, and according to that act of Presbytrie maid at Kingorn, Maii 6, 1641, designit one tyme for his transportatioun from the kirk of Auchtertule to the kirk of Dron, viz. the 14 day of November instant wherefoir the Presbytrie according to thair act grants him transportatioun and declaires the kirk of Auchtertule to be vacand after the said day.

The Presbytrie appoynts the clerk to collect the moneyes for the Burser of Theologie.

Mr Thomas Hogg presented ane presentatioun from the King his Matie, under his privie seale to the kirk of Kennoquhie craveing of the brethren collatioun thereupon. The brethren appoynts Mr Mungo Law, Moderator, and Mr Robert Cranstown minister at Skunnie, to repair to Kennoquhie on Monday nixt the 15 of this instant, to give him collatioun. Mr Robert Cranstown payit the clerk for the Burser of Theologie.

DYSERT, *Novemb* 18.

The whilk day Mr Robert Cranstown exercised without additioun. Mr Georg Gilespie is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day of meitting whilk is not to be befoir this day fyftein dayes, in respect the Erle of Rothess corps is to be buried the nixt day. The kirk of Auchtertule being now vacand, Mr Josua Meldrom is appoyntit to add to the exercise, Text, Hose, 5, 14. The Moderator and Mr Robert Cranstowne declaired thair diligence in giveing Mr Thomas Hogg collatioun upon Moonday last.

A fast is appoyntit to be keipt throughout all the kirks of this Presbytrie upon the last Sabbath of November, and is to be intimated the nixt Sabbath.

Mr Mungo Law payit to the clerk of the Assemblie 3 sh. 4d. Item for James Murray, 20 sh. Item for the Burser for Dysert, 12 lbs, all resaved be the clerk.

DYSERT, *December* 2, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter was presented be Collonell Leslie from the Erle of Levin his father, desyreing that Mr John Smith minister at Leslie, myt not be removed thairfrom for good services done to the houss of Rothess, and to be done. Anser continewed till Mr John be hard for himself the nixt day, and the friends of the Erle of Rothess to be further delt with. A letter direct from Edr to the Presbytrie for keipeing a solemne thanksgiveing upon the 9 of Januarii nixt for Gods goodness to this land. A letter sent from the clerk to the Assemblie for his clerk fie : the brethren promeises to pay the samyn. Anent Isobell Bosuells act for 20 lbs be year to be payit to hir be the minister of Kinglessie and heretors thair, the Presbytrie appoynt ane visitatioun of the said kirk to be keipt the nixt Thursday and appoynts the clerk to writt ane edict to that effect. The Presbytrie advyses Mr John Moncrief minister atKingorne, not to contract William Colyear till he be cleired of the slander of adulterie that he lyes under. Grants to give Mr Patrik Gilespie a testimonial to the Presbytrie of Glasgow.

KINGLESSIE, *December* 9.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kinglessie, holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 9 day of December instant, be Mr Mungo Law, Moderator, Mrs Robert Cranstown, John Smith, Frederik Carmichell, John Chalmer, Harie Wilkie, Robert Bruce, and Thomas Melvill minister at the said kirk, and ruleing elders, the Lairds of Arnett, Bogie, Halyairds. Edict returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. The minister and reider being removed for thair tryells the elder praised God for them and approved them, bot desyres that the reider as scholemaster may be admonished to wait better upon the schole. The minister and reider being returned and the elders being removed for their tryell, the minister praises God for them and approves them in thair lyves and conversatioun. Anent the gleib designit to the minister and the pasturage, belongeing to him with fail dovat to uphold his houss and manss, James Aytone of Finglessie, and Mr Robert Bruce, husband to the liferentrix of the said land and the haill heretors of the parosh present, ar content to submitt themselfs for the payment thairof to the Lairds of Arnet, Bogie, Halyairds and Kinadie, or to any thrie of them. Anent the advyce of the Provincial Assemblie to Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at the said kirk of Kinglessie, to pay to Isobell Bosuell, widdow, twentie punds yearlie dureing hir lyfetyme for hir kindnes of that part of the gleib that was evicted from hir, the minister out of charitie is content (being advysed be the Provincial Assemblie so to doe) to pay Isobell Bosuell (dureing his lyfetyme or abode at the said kirk) 20 lbs yearlie, and all the heretors out of conscience of dutie to thair minister faithfullie promeises and binds themselfs befoir the Presbytrie to relieve thair minister *pro rata*, portiones of the said sowme yearlie.

The Presbytrie thinks it both expedient and necessarie that the pulpett of Kinglessie be removed from the place that it stands in and placed in some other commodious part and to that effect appoynts and nominats Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr John Chalmer, Mr John Smith, and the Lairds of Arnet, Bogie, and Halyairds to sie the samyne put in execution.

The heretors ar content that heirafter thair sallbe no more kirk buriall thair. The Presbytrie appoynts Tyesday nixt for giveing Mr Frederik Carmichell his collatioun to the steipend of Markinche and to deale anent the controverted seatt in that kirk. John Williamsone and William Bervie Baillies of Kirkcaldie compeiring gave in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie craveing Mr John Smith to be transported to Kirkcaldie. The said Mr John gave in his reasons in writt for the contrair. The Presbytrie taks the samyne to thair consideratioun to anser to them the nixt day. Mr John Chalmer reported that the parochiners of Auchterdirran wer content to give thair Scholemaster 80 merks yearlie and to bynd themselfs in payment thairof at Witsonday nixt.

The names of the heretors and elders of the parochine of Kinglessie—

Sr David Creightone of Lugtowne
Sr Alexrs Clerk of Pittencreif
Mr Gilbert Clerk of Pityocher Wester
Sr David Barclay of Collernie
Mr Robert Nicholson for Pityocher Easter
Mr James Schoner of Caskyebarrian

David Crystie of Overstentone
Mr Robert Aytone of Inchdernie
John Bosuell of Milldeans
Patrik Kinninmonth of that Ilk
Mr David Weymes for Pitlochie
James Aytone of Finglessie
Mr William Wardlaw of Gaitmilk
Robert Brown of Finmonth
Mr Robert Bruce for Kinglessie

Thomas Anderson
Thomas Curror
John Lethim
David Law
James Cristie
Alex Curror
Georg Todd
John Inglis
Andro Law
James Cristie, yor
Georg Dryburgh

DYSERT, *December* 16, 1641.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Josua Meldrom for his further tryells to handel the Cowmonhead *De Natura Fidei* in Latin and to give in *Theses* for disputatiouns thairupon. Continews the anser to Mr John Smiths reasons for his not removeing from Leslie to the nixt day. Mistres Trueman whose husband was hanged and quartered be the Deputie in Ireland giveing in ane supplicatioun for help it was grantit be the brethren bot to be done privatlie. Mr Andro Leslie craves his often and long absence from the Presbytrie to be excused be his inhabilite to travel as also for tymes to come for the said reason whilk was grantit. Mr Mungo Law and Mr John Moncrief ar appoyntit to goe to Burntiland and to give him institutioun and collatioun to the kirk and steipend of Burntiland. Resaved from Mr Thomas Melvill 8 merks for the burser of Theologie also the Clerk to the Assemblie 2 merks.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Mr John Smith his removeing or remaineing at Leslie the brethren after due deliberatioun by pluralitie of voyces thinks that he should not be removed bot remaine still at Leslie. Resaved from Mr Georg Gilespie for the Burser of Theologie, 8 lbs.

Item for Mistress Trueman, 10 lbs. Item resaved from Burntiland for the Burser 10 lbs. Item for the Clerk to the Assemblie, 2 merks. Item from Leslie to Mistress Trueman, 7 lbs. 10 sh. Item from Skunie for hir, 8 lbs. 2 sh.

The town and paroshin of Kirkcaldie, fynding themselfs disapoynted of thair expectatioun of Mr John Smith, the Laird of Bogie for the paroshe, and John Williamsone and William Bervie, bailles for the towne, craves from the Presbytrie that they wold nominate a lite of ministers and expectants to them, of whom they may choose one to be thair minister who nominates Mr Walter Grig, Mr Patrik Scuggell, Mr James Wood, Mr John Friebairn, Mr William Nairne, and expectants Mr Patrik Gilespie, Mr Alexander Moncrief.

DYSERT, *December* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrom gave in his *Theses* who is to handel the Cowmonhead *De Natura Fidei* the nixt day in Latin. The solemne thankgiving

appoyntit to be intimate the nixt Sabbath. Mr Frederik Carmichell being appoyntit to goe over the water to attend the commitie on the Kirks affairs (as he was ordeaned) craves that his place may be supplied in his absence. The brethren appoynts Mr Robert Tod to preache thairupon the day of solemne thanksgiveing and thairafter Mr Robert Bruce.

Mr Mungo Law reportit that he and Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Smith, went as they wer appoyntit to Markinche and gave Mr Frederik Carmichell collatioun according to his presentatioun as also that he and Mr John Moncrief went to Burntiland and gave Mr Andro Leslie collatioun. The Presbytrie gives warrand to Mr John Moncrieff to contract and marie William Colyear he finding cautioun to satisfie for adultrie alledgit upon him if ever it sall be proven.

The Laird of Orrok craves the Presbytries advyce anent his seatt in the kirk of Burntiland. The brethren appoynts the Moderator to writt the minister of Burntiland thairanent. Resaved from Auchterdirran for the Burser of Theologie 4 lbs. Item for Mistres Trueman, 4 merks. Item from Kinglessie to Truemans wyff, 7 merks. Item from Kingorn for James Murray, 20 sh. Item for Truemans wyff, 16 merks.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 6, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrom handled the Cowmonhead *De Natura Fidei* in Latin and was approven be the brethren who wer present in that part of his tryells. The disputatiouns continewed till the nixt day. 20 lbs resaved from Burntiland for Truemans wyff.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 16, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . John Colyear gave in ane supplicatioun subscryvit be the heretors and a great number of the town of Kirkcaldie craveing Mr Patrik Gilespie to be tryed for thair minister whilk was accepted and grantit bot his entrie and his tryells continewed till a letter be written to Glasgow for his discharge thair whilk the Moderator and clerk were appoynted to writt thither.

Mr Josua Meldrom susteined disputatiouns upon his *Thcses*, and was approven upon that poynt of his tryells, who is appoyntit to give his tryells of his Hebrew the nixt day viz. the 6 chapter of Hose and of his Greik, and to anser to the catechetique questiouns. Walter Wilson, Inglishman, craveing the benefit of mariage in Burntiland brought with him Henri Kinkevill, Thomas Paterson and Peiter Cumming, who had sailed with him and had bein with him in Plimmouth where he was born : admittit and sworne, declaired that for ought they knew or ever hard thair, that hee is ane frie man unmaried. Advyses that Mr Andro Leslie or Mr John Moncrief trye William Kay, skipper, with whom he sailed and to report his anser the nixt day. Advyses Janet Nicolson who haveing raised sowmones aganest John Forfor, hir husband, who hes deserted hir thir eight years bygone, whilks sowmonds ar raised and dulie execute at the croce of Edr, peir and schoir of Leyth, and returned formallie indorsat and the thriescoir dayes expyred, to prosecute hir process. Resaved from Ballingrie for Mrs Trueman, 4 lbs, 11 sh.

KIKKCALDIE, *Januarii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the commissioners for the Kirk desyreing that the valuatiouns that ar exped and where thair is no valuatioun as yit, that they be exped and brought over aganest the first of Junii. Anent Sr John Scotts business the brethren promeises diligence.

The whilk day also Mr Josua Meldrom susteined that part of his tryells anent his questiouns who gave satisfactioun to the brethren on that poynt. Allan Nicoll, adulterer in Weyms, to be cited to the nixt day.

The brethren appoynts Mr Josua Meldrum to preache popular doctrin the nixt day in Dysert for his further tryell, and gives him for Text, 1 Tim 3, 16.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 27.

The whilk day Mr Josua Meldrom handled the place of scripture assigned to him and was approved upon that poynt of his tryell, and is appoyntit to handel his Hebrew and Greik the nixt day. Mr Robert Bruce his last days absence hardlie excused. The Laird of Bogie, David Melvill, brother german to My Lord Melvill, John Colyear, John Inglis, William Anderson for the paroshe and towne of Kirkcaldie, produced ane supplicatioun subscryvit be the noblemen and gentellmen of the paroshe and a great manie of the towne, humblie craveing of the brethren that they wold trie Mr Patrik Gilespie his literatur and qualificatioun for the ministrie, and (being fownd qualified) to give and admitt him fellowhelper to Mr James Symeson in the ministrie of Kirkcaldie, whilk supplicatioun the brethren accepts and appoynts the said Mr Patrik to enter upon his tryells and gives him the Cowmonhead *De Causa Reprobationis*, to handel in Latin as a poynt of his tryells. William Bervie, Baillie of Kirkcaldie compeireing, acknowledged and confessed that the Counsell of Kirkcaldie was formallie conveined, and the mater anent Mr Patrik Gilespie being agitate was voited, and ane voyceing passed in favours of Mr Patrik Gilespie be tuo voyces. The other Bailie, John Williamsone, denyed the samyne, who with William Tennent, William Williamsone, James Whyte, John Law, Henrie Miller compeireing, craved a copie of the supplicatioun that they myt object aganest the samyne, whereto the brethren continewes thair anser to this day eight dayes. Whereupon John Williamson gave in ane declinatur in his own name and in name of the rest, and passing over the Provincial, appealed to the Generall Assemblie, who being informed by a brother, of the daunger that myt ensue, thairupon took up the samyne unsubscryvit, and left further at that tyme. The said John Williamsone also craved that he myt have process aganest Margaret Gilespie who (as he alledgit) had wronged him, and he perseweing hir befoir the sessioun of Kirkcaldie, she appealed to the Presbytrie. The brethren continews thair anser till the nixt day that they sie the claime and the appellatioun. Compeired Isobell Dick who resaved hir last injunctiouns for adulterous behaviour with Patrik Mackenzie, whilk she is ordeaned to confess.

The clerk to writt to Mr Andro Leslie that nothing be done in Burntiland kirk in prejudice of the Laird of Orrok.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 3, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrom being tryed in his Hebrew and Greik gave contentment to his hearers, and was approven in this last poynt of his tryells, and the clerk appoyntit to give him his edict as it was appoynted the last day to be servit upon the Sabbath nixt for chargeing all that hes anything to object aganest him, to compeire befoir the Presbytrie upon Thursday nixt where they salbe hard, and if none compeire the said Mr Josua to be resaved, minister at the kirk of Auchtertule, upon the nixt ensueing Thursday the 17 of this instant.

A list for the valuatiouns for this Presbytrie nominat, viz for the Parochine of Kirkcaldie the Laird of Bogie, for Kingorn David Brown of Viccersgraunge, for Burntiland the Laird of Orrok, for Auchtertule the Laird of Halyairds, for Kinglessie the Laird of Finmonth, for Auchterdirran James Colvill of Babeddie, for Ballingrie James Scrimgeor, for Portnook the Laird of Arnett, for Leslie the Laird of Strathenrie, for Markinche the Laird of Kirkferther, for Kennoquhie the Laird of Auchtermairnie, for Skunie the Laird of Fingask, for Weyms My Lord of Elcho, for Dysert Sr Georg Hamilton.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrum gave his oath that he was frie of all privie pactioun hitherto with his patron and that he sall doe nothing in tyme comeing that sallbe prejudicial to the kirk or to his successors whereupon the brethren appoynts Thursday nixt for his admission to the kirk of Auchtertule (his edict being returned servit and indorsat and none compeireing to object).

Mr Patrik Gilespie gave in his *Theses* for handleing his Cowmonhead *De Causa Reprobationis* bot in respect of Mr Josua his admissioun it is continewed to this day fyftein dayes when Mr Mungo Law is appoyntit to preache. The whilk day also John Williamsone and William Bervie Baillies of Kirkcaldie did present to us ane appeliatioun in thair owne names and in the name of the counsell of Kirkcaldie from the Presbytrie to the Provinciall Synode which the Presbytrie did reject for the reasons following. 1. Becauss the said Baillies had befoir desyred the Presbytrie to give them a lite of able men foir thair vaiking place be reasone of the transportatioun of Mr Robert Douglas which the Presbytrie did, in which lite Mr Patrik Gilespie was one, and they then did object nothing aganest him. 2. Becauss they had resaved ane earnest supplicatioun both from the noblemen and gentellmen of the landward paroshe and Counsell of Kirkcaldie for Mr Patrik Gilespie to be fellowhelper in the ministrie to Mr James Symeson at Kirkcaldie. 3. Becauss William Bervie Baillie and one of the appeallers being posed be our Moderator at our directioun whidder or no it was voyced in the counsell for Mr Patrik Gilespie to be thair minister ansered it was voyced and carryed for Mr Patrik be pluralitie of voyces. 4. Becauss thair appellatioun was backed with no reason aither aganest the qualificatioun or conversatioun of Mr Patrik whom the greatest part of the congregatioun had supplicate for bot a reason aganest the Presbytrie. Robert

Yule son-in-law to Umqll Mr Thomas Powtie compeiring craved of the Presbytrie what recompence he sould have of the expenses depursit be his father-in-law upon the kirk manss of Leslie and what he myt expect for the Ann.

The Presbytrie thinks expedient that the manss be visited to the availl and that he sould have the half of the steipend for that year and desyres Mr John Smith to agree with him. Reference from the Presbytrie to the Synod whidder it be expedient at the resaving of ministers that thair be fasting. Item reference whidder at the admissioun of ministers it be expedient that the people be urged publiklie to swear obedience to the minister.

The Presbytrie nominats Mr Fredrik Carmichaell and Mr Harie Wilkie with the Lairds of Arnett and Caskiebarrian ruleing elders to concurr for the settleing and agreeing of Mr John Smith and Robert Yule anent what recompence sallbe given be the said Mr John to Robert Yule for the manss and Ann of Leslie.

AUCHTERTULE, *Februarii* 17.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie being conveined at the Kirk of Auchtertule for resaveing of Mr Josua Meldrome minister thairat Mr Mungo Law delyvered the sermone where wer present also Mr James Symeson minister at Kirkcaldie, Mr John Moncrief minister at Kingorne, Mr John Chalmer minister at Auchterdirran, Mr Robert Bruce minister at Ballingrie, Mr John Smith minister at Leslie, Mr Georg Gilespie minister at Weyms, who resaved Mr Johua Meldrome minister at the said kirk according to the order sett downe in the Psalme Book who gave his oath of aledgeance to his Matie.

Reference to the Assemblie whidder to tak the oath of allegeance which is sett downe in the Generall Assemblie at Glasgow 1610. Absents—Mr Harie Wilkie Thomas Melvill, Frederik Carmichell, Robert Cranstown.

Ruleing elders present the Lairds of Bogie and Orrok John Knox. Anent the Laird of Orroks seatt in the Kirk of Burntiland the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Mungo Law and Mr John Moncrief minister also Mr Robert Cunninghame and Mr James Monypennie ruleing elders to goe to Burntiland and deall with these of the towne for settleing of that mater.

Ordeanes to writt to the Presbytrie of Elgin anent Mr Robert Tod. Mr John Smith reported that the mater betwixt him and Robert Yule anent the steipend and manss of Leslie was agreed.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Gillespie delyvered his discourse *De Causa Reprobationis* in Latin, whereunto he gave the brethren great contentment, and was approven be them all on that poynt of his tryells, who also susteined disputatiouns thairupon, and was approven on that part also without a contrair voyce. He is appoyntit to add to the exercise the nixt day for his further tryells, as also to be tryed in his Hebrew and Greik. John Williamsone and William Bervie, Baillies of Kirkcaldie, presented thair appellatioun to us agane backit with ane act of counsell which we did reject for the former reasons, as also becauss the Ryt Honnoll Sr

John Weyms of Bogie, one of the supplicants informed us that David Bennett, one of the Counsell of Kirkcaldie, did protest in his own name, and in name of the greatest part of the Counsell agance that act whilk protestatioun he promeised to produce at the nixt meitting. Anent the meitting at Kinglessie the Presbytrie prorogates the tyme thairof till Aprill.

Mr Robert Cranstowns last dayes absence excused. Mr Josua Meldrome is ordeaned to give Mr William Bell satisfactioun for his expenses depursit be him for the kirk manss at Auchtertule befoir he get his collatioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 3.

The whilk day Mr William Bett exercised, Mr Patrik Gilespie added. Doctrin censured and allowed, and Mr Patrik Gilespie approven on that part of his tryells, who also being tryed in his Hebrew upon the 7 chapter of Hosea, and in his Greik upon the Epistle of Jud, gave the brethren great contentment, and was approven be them on that part of his tryells. Mr Patrik Gilespie is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day, and is to be tryed with questiouns, Mr James McGill to add. Absents the said day—Mrs Thomas Hogg, Robert Bruce, Josua Meldrome.

Ruleing Elders present, the Lairds of Bogie, Fingask, Caskybarrian, Viccersgraunge, Spittell. Mr Frederik Carmichell reported a nott from James Murray of the resait of moneyes he had resaved. James Law in Kirkcaldie produced the protestatioun taken be David Bennett in his own name, and in name of the greatest part of the Counsell, aganest the illegall act of the Counsell of Kirkcaldie, subscryvit be Robert Frenche, common clerk of the said burgh which the Ryt Honnoll Sr John Wemys of Bogie had promeised sould be produced at our nixt meitting as also ane ratificatioun of the protestatioun subscryvit be the suppliants for Mr Patrik Gilespie. John Lawmonth sone to Umqll Mr Allan Lawmonth give in ane supplicatioun for some support. The brethren considering the multitud that comes from Irland, thinks that it will not be possible to serve them all except that they keip some of that whilk they sall collect for support of the whole, and thairfoir appoynts Mr Georg Gilespie to speak to the secret counsell, and to enquyre of them whidder or not they may keip a part of that whilk they sall collect for the support of the single persons who comes abroad.

Compeired Janet Malcolm in Kingorn, trelapse in fornicatioun, and resaved hir first injunctions, and to satisfie as ane adultress. The brethren considereing the great break of the Sabbath by sailling of schipps and boats upon the Sabbath, ordeanes that in all tyme comeing, no schipps nor boats that sallbe in saife harbours sall louse or transport themselfs ellswhere, bot sall rest the Sabbath, and that under the paine of 5 lbs *toties quoties*, and makeing of thair publik repentance, and this act to be extended to this haill Presbytrie, as also refers it to the Synod that the samyne be extended to the haill shyre.

DYSERT, *March* 10.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Gilespie, exercise Mr James McGill added. Doctrin censured and allowed. Mr Patrik Gilespie was approven be the brethren on this poynt

of his tryells, who also susteined his tryells anent his questiouns of chronologie and controversies wherein also he gave the brethren great satisfactioun in that poynt of his tryells without ane contrair voyce. Mr Patrik Gilespie appoyntit to have his popular sermon the nixt day in Kirkcaldie as the last of his tryells and gives him for Text, 1 Cor, 1, 17.

The parson of Dysert and Mr John Moncrief ar appoyntit to try Mr Andro Waker in his gramer for the schole of Markinche. Compeired Isobell Dick for slander of adulterie with Patrik Mackenzie since she was discharged: denyed the samyne. Compeired Cristian Thomson, witness in the said mater aganest hir, who being admitted and sworne deponed as follows—The said Cristian Thomson deponed that Patrik Mackenzie was in Isobell Dicks houss within thir 9 or 10 weiks and she comeing to Isobell Dicks houss to seik barme, she denyed that she had any, and she hard Patrik Mackenzie within the houss who said to Isobel Dick, Yone is your old servand, and the said Isobell cursed hir; as also deponed that the said Patrik come to Isobell Dicks houss upon Saturday after the first day of the said Isobells repenttance, and that she raise hirself and lett him in and gave him his supper and ane hote drink, whiche the said Cristian drew of clarett wine, and that the said Isobell said to him, My hart I have suffered many things for yow, bot I hope I sall debait them all, bot I wold be content to be drawn at ane horse taill lyk astaid so that I may sie you weill at even, yea my hart, I wald be content to stand 7 years at the ports of hell for your saik to pleasure you. Compeired also Isobel Kynnear, witness aganest the said Isobell, who being admitted and deiplie sworne, deponed that she saw Patrik Mackenzie twyse in Isobell Dicks houss since Mertimes, and saw himself drawing a drink out of the barrell. Compeired Andro Norwell and Effie Moreis, adulterers who resaved thair first injunctiouns. Also Allan Nicoll, adulterer with Isobell Williamsone, compeireing in sackcloth resaved his last injunctiouns. Margaret Galbraith in Dysert ordeaned to mak hir public repentance for not comeing to the kirk thir tuo years bygone. Reference to the Synod anent what sort of repentance sallbe maid by customable byders from the kirk, despysers of communioun and catechiseing. Mr Georg Gilespie reported that he had spoken syndrie of the counsellers particularlie who said in thair judgement that thair may be some of generall collectioun for the people of Irland keipt for particular persons that come alongs to thair own shyres.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 17.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Gilespie taught upon the part of scripture assigned to him to the great contentruent of his heirers, and was approven be the brethren of the Presbytrie, in this last poynt of tryell, and of all his preceeding tryells without a contrarie voyce, who appoynted his edict to be servit the nixt Sabbath to the first Thursday of meitting after the Assemblie to the end that all persons that hes anything to object aganest the said Mr Patrik, aither in his literature and qualificatioun, or aganest his lyff and conversatioun, may compeire betwixt, and the said day and object where they sallbe hard with certificatioun, that if none com-

peire, the brethren will proceid to his admissioun the said day, viz. the 14 day of Aprile.

Absent—Mr Thomas Hogg. Mr Robert Bruces tuo dayes absence not excused bot rebuiked, and admonished to keip the Presbytrie better. Ruleing elders present—the Lairds of Fingask, Caskybarrian, Viccergraunge, Mr James Monypennie, Robert Orrok, Thomas Goudie.

Margaret Wilkie compeireing, charged *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day. The whilk day also compeired Janet Nicholsone, who produced hir seconde diligence of divorcement aganest hir husband befoir the commissioners of Edr was appoyntit to proceid, and remitted hir to the commissioners.

Compeired Elspett Law, adultress with Henri Wilson: resaved hir last injunctions. Mr Josua Meldrom produced Mr William Bells discharge of satisfactioun for his expenses depursit upon the kirk manss of Auchtertule, whilk discharge is appoyntit to be registrat in the Presbytrie book and appoynts Mr John Chalmer and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe to the kirk of Auchtertule, and thair to give the said Mr Josua collatioun and institutioun, as also to sie the said manss visited. Mr William Nairne and Mr John Moncrief wer appoynted to try Mr Andro Walker his qualificatioun and habilitie for teacheing the gramer, reported that in thair judgement he was unqualified.

DYSERT, *March* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . All persons called upon that had anything to object aganest Mr Patrik Gilespie ather in his literature or his qualificatioun or in his lyff or conversatioun (his edict being returned served and indorsat) compeired John Williamsone and William Bervie, Baillies of Kirkcaldie, and William Tennent who objected aganest the proceideing of the Presbytrie and aganest the irrelevancie of the supplicatioun aganest whilk they had protested, bot nothing aganest Mr Patrik Gilespie nayther in his lyff nor doctrin, bot said they wold reserve that to thair own tyme. The brethren appoynts Tyesday nixt for the meitting at Kinglessie anent some things remitted from the last visitatioun of the kirk thair.

Mr William Thomson, resident with the Laird of Lugtowne accepted to remaine heir and exercise his gift in exerciseing and preacheing. The brethren promeises to give Susanna Bisset some support.

Compeired Isobell Dick, also Thomas Jack, David Tullus, Elspett Cruickshank, Elspett Reid, Isobell Kinnear, witness aganest the said Isobell Dick in the mater betwixt hir and Patrik Mackenzie, all admitted and sworne, deponed as follows—Thomas Jack deponed that Elspett Cruickshank said to him that she being in Leyth resaved ane letter from Patrik Mackenzie to delyver to Isobell Dick, bot befoir she came out Leyth, Isobell Dick hirself come to Leyth, to whom she gave the letter thair and thairafter she saw him and hir together in William Cambells houss in Leyth, and that this was the last weik; as also deponed that she said that since Mertimes she knew the said Patrik and hir wer in bed togither in Isobell Dicks houss. The whilk day also compeired the said Elspett Cruickshank, who deponed that she being in Leyth got a letter from Patrik Mackenzie to delyver to Isobell

Dick, whilk she delyvered to Isobell Dick in Leyth as said is, and sent the said Isobell to Patrik Mackenzie in William Cambells houss; as also that she and Isobell Kinnear being in Isobell Dicks houss sitting at the fyre togither since Mertimes last hard Patrik Mackenzie in the bed in Isobell Dicks houss, and that he stayed thair twentie dayes befoir Candelmes; also that Elspett Reid let in Patrik Mackenzie at the foir yett, and she speired at hir who it was, and she anserit that it was Patrik Mackenzie, and then Isobell Dick rose and went to him and that she was put to lye on the backsyde that night. Isobell Kinnear deponed that she and Elspett Cruickshank being sitting at Isobell Dicks fyre since Mertimes, she hard the said Patrik Mackenzie in Isobell Dicks bed. David Tullus deponed that he hes sein Patrik Mackenzie dyvers times in Isobell Dicks houss. Elspett Reid deponed that she opened the yett of Isobell Dicks houss, and lett in Patrik Mackenzie thairat, within this half year. The Presbytrie continews thair judgement until the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 31.

The whilk day . . . . Compeired James Wilson in Markinche, and Margaret Wilkie, the said Margaret haveing brought forth a bairne, she affirms the said James to be the father thairof, who denyed that he knew hir or any other woman, she is remitted to the sessioun of Dysert, where she resydes, to be further tryed and he appoynted to compeire wher he salbe be requyred. Compeired David Tullus, witness aganest Isobell Dick, who according to his oath deponed that about a year bygone in Januar, he saw Patrik Mackenzie in Isobell Dicks houss, standing befoir the fyre with his coat off, and his petticoat on, and his mulls of his feete, as also that in bearsyde time last, he carried ane letter from Isobell Dick, blank on the back, and delyvered it to Patrik Mackenzie in William Forresters tavern in the head of the Cannongait, and brought the anser thairof back from him to hir; also, that in sumer last he saw Patrik Mackenzie sitting at the board with his nyt bonnett on his head writing. Item that in October last she sent him over to Patrik Mackenzie to tell him she was troubled be the Presbytrie for him, who returned this anser that he was also troubled for the present, bot he should come over to hir schortlie. Also Elspett Cruickshank further deponed that she, Elspett Reid and Isobell Kinnear and one Harie Tane, being all sitting at Isobell Dicks fyre, hard Patrik Mackenzie in Isobell Dicks bed, and the said Harie Tane said he wold goe and tak the adulterer out from the whoore, bot they wold not let him; also that she saw Patrik Mackenzie upon ane Sunday in the morning in summer last pisheinge out at Isobell Dicks windo. All persons being called agane that had anything to object aganest Mr Patrik Gilespie aither in his doctrin or in his lyff and conversatioun to compeire and be hard, compeired John Williamsone and William Bervie, Baillies in Kirkcaldie, William Tennent, William Williamsone, James aad Robert Wrights, John Law, Georg Bervie, and gave in ane paper beareing (as they said) reasons aganest the proceiding of the Presbytrie anent Mr Patrik Gilespie whilk paper being read did contein ane appellatioun, protestatioun, and citatioun, with some other reasons aganest the edict servit on Mr Patrik Gilespie, whilk being read and con-

sidered, and severallie voited be the Presbytrie *nemine contradicente* they thought the reasons null whilk paper they had onlie resaved in so far as it conteined reasons aganest the proceidings the Presbytrie allanerlie. Compeired James Henrysone trelapse in fornicatioun who resaved his last injunctiouns in sackcloath as ane adulterer. Ordeanes a letter to be written to the sessioun of Burntiland for prosecuteing thair act maid in favours of the Laird of Orrok anent his seatt in the kirk.

Anent the meitting at the kirk of Kinglessie upon Tyesday last Mr John Chalmer and Mr Thomas Melvill reported that they had done all whilk was committed to them, and given contentment thairanent. The Laird of Arnett craved of the brethren that they wold concur with him, and assist him with the Synod anent the kirk of Portmook, whilk they promeise to doe. The brethren being removed for thair tryells with the ruleing elders *per vices*, each thank God for other and encouraged them. The brethren absent to be censured the first day of meitting.

Mr William Nairne and Master John Moncrief nominat to the Assemblie for the Moderatorshipp.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Assemblie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 14.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Gilespie was resaved minister at Kirkcaldie, fellow-helper with Mr James Symeson. Mr Robert Cranstowne preached the said day Text, John 10, 10.

Anent the chuseing of the Moderator, Mr John Smith and Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Georg Gilespie being leited Mr John Smith be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator. Compeired Margaret Wilkie who confessed and affirmed David Thomson in Kirkcaldie to be hir bairnes father, and that he lay twyse with hir that night, the bairne was gotten also that she mett with him thairafter, betuein Auchmutie and Babirnie Mill, and told him that she was with bairne to him, and he bade hir give it to another : sowmoned *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day and to be sowmonit to be confrontit with hir.

Compeired Geills Pearsone, trelapse in fornicatioun who resaved hir last injunctions in sackcloath. Mr Harie Wilkie payed four punds for the Burser of Theologie, resaved be the Clerk.

Ruleing elders nominate till the nixt Assemblie, Mr Georg Law for Dysert, John Colyear for Kirkcaldie, Mr David Weyms for Kingorn, Robert Richardson for Burntiland, John Crawfuird for Auchtertule, The Laird of Pityocher for Kinglessie, Mr David Scrimgeor for Auchterdirran, James Scrimgeor for Ballingrie, Arnett for Portmook for Leslie, Kirkferther for Markinche, William Miller for Kennoquhie, the Laird of Athernie for Skunie, Robert Browne for Weyms.

The last days absents to be censured the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Aprile* 21.

Mr Georg Ogilvie exercised, Mr James Baxter added . . . Mrs John Moncrief and Harie Wilkie being removed for thair censure, the brethren praises God for

them, bot admonishes Mr Harie Wilkie to leave his jeasting and to be more grave. Also Mrs Robert Bruce and Josua Meldrome being removed for thair censure the brethren praises God for them bot admonishes Mr Robert Bruce to keip the Presbytrie better. It is ordeaned that whosoever intermitts thair publik repentance heirafter for everie day they slipp they sall sitt tuo. Elspett Thomson in Kingorne compeireing is ordeaned to mak hir repentance in Auchtertule for fornicatioun committed be hir thair. Compeired David Thomson, challenged of adulterie with Margaret Wilkie whilk he denyed. The said Margaret being present and confrontit with him affirmed that he lay with hir one night tuyse, and that he pat his hand upon hir mouth that she sould not cry. The said David confessed that he was in the bed with hir, bot denyes that he lay with hir.

Compeired Janet Baill in Markinche, trelapse in fornicatioun and resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired John Anderson in Auchterdirran, trelapse in fornicatioun, and resaved his last injunctiouns. Margaret Murie his partner compeireing confessed that her bairne was unbaptised. Thair is one generall fast to be keipt upon the first of Maii whilk is to be intimated in all the kirks of this Presbytrie the nixt Sabbath. The Presbytrie for good reasons moveing them thinks meitt to change thair Presbytrie day from the Thursday to the Wednesday. Mr Georg Blak presented his supplicatioun to the brethren who promeised to help him the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Aprile* 27.

The whilk day compeired David Thomson in Kirkcaldie anent the bairne fathered upon him be Margaret Wilkie : abydes still be his denyell : ordeaned to be warded till he find cautioun of lawborrowes to the said Margaret Wilkie as also to compeir befoir the Presbytrie when he sallbe challenged.

Mr Andro Leslie and Mr Thomas Hoggs thair former absence excused, who being removed for their censures (whilk sould have bein befoir the Assemblie, bot in respect of thair absence was continewed) the brethren praises God for them but finds fault with Mr Thomas Hogg for not keipeing the universall thanksgiveing, whilk the said Mr Thomas acknowledged.

Anent the settleing of the mater tuiching the Laird of Orroks seatt in the kirk of Burntiland, the Presbytrie appoynts the said kirk of Burntiland to be visited for that effect this day fyftein dayes and ordeanes the Clerk to give ane edict for that effect. Resaved from Mr Robert Bruce 20 sh for James Murray. Resaved from Mr Andro Leslie 4 Merks for the Clerk of the Assemblie. Item he payit the Clerk fie to his own clerk.

DYSERT, *Maii* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . It is ordeaned that heirafter the first speaker of the exercise sall speak from the pulpett, and the second from lettron . . . Anent Margart Murray relapse in fornicatioun not having satisfied for hir first fornicatioun in Kennoquhie, it is ordeaned that she sall sitt thrie Sabbath dayes upon the stooll of publik repentance for hir first fault, and becauss she fledd and hes keipt hir bairne unbaptised for the space of eight years that she sall sit six Sabbaths upon the stooll

in Markinche where hir second fault was committed, and the seventh Sabbath she sall stand in the joggs betwixt the second and last bell and thairafter sitt in sackcloath and be resaved, and thairafter hir bairne to be babtised. The whilk day also anent Leivetenant Collonell Leslie his mariage with Elspett Kininmonth, sister german to the Laird of Kininmonth, he being commandit be the Generall to repair towards Irland with all expeditioun, and being once proclaimed onlie the Presbytrie in that caise dispenses with him in respect of his necessitie, and gives warrand to the ministers of Dysert to marie him.

Compeired Margaret Turner, trelapse in fornicatioun, ordeaned to satisfie according to the order. Mr James Symeson, Mr John Moncrief, and Mr Mungo Law appoynted to try Georg Robertsone in his gramer for the schole of Markinche, and to report thair diligence the nixt day. Anent the process of adulterie proven aganest Isobell Dick with Patrik Mackenzie after that she was discharged his companie at Dysert, Julii 25, 1639, with certificatioun that ever she sould be found in his companie heirafter, the said Isobell sold be holden for ane adultress and ordeaned to satisfie accordinglie, bot so it is that it is cleirlie proven aganest the said Isobell that Patrik Mackenzie hes bein oft and divers times in hir houss since she was discharged, and thairfoir the Presbytrie ordeanes hir to satisfie as ane adultress whilk decreit they intimate to hir being present. Mrs Frederik Carmichell and Mungo Low appoyntit to speak to the gudman of the milne anent his sonne.

Acts of the Committie at Kinglessie, March 29, ordeaned to be registrat, whereof the tenor followeth :—

Kinglesssie, 29 March, 1642, according to the act of the Presbytrie holden at the last visitatioun at Kinglessie, appoynting Mr Frederik Carmichell at Markinche, Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie, Mr Henrie Wilkie, minister at Portmook, and Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, and the Right Honnoll Sir Michaell Arnett of Arnett, Sr John Weyms of Bogie, and Sr Andro Skeine of Halyairds to conveine at the said towne and to remove the pulpett to the most convenient place in the kirk for the stance thairof, and for to discerne concerning the abolishing of kirk buriall, conveined the foirsaids ruleing elders and ministers, haveing the said acte of Presbytrie, and electing Mr Frederik Carmichell, Moderator. It was demandit be the Moderator of the parochiners present whidder or not all wold agree to the said act of Presbytrie now as they had done befoir at the visitatioun all present did condescend for the removall of the pulpett also the Laird of Lugtowne who was not present at the visitatioun onlie Robert Broun of Finnmonth denyed that he had condecended at the visitatioun, and for the present wold not condecend to the removal of the pulpett; and all the parochiners present did condecend that no kirk buriall sould be in the kirk heirafter giveing thair consent thairto, viz. the Lairds of Lugtowne, Finmonth, Inchdairnie, Casbybarrian, Finglessie, Milldeans, Pityocher, David Cristie. It was also represented to the foirsaid ruleing elders and ministers that was ane grave stone lying upon Mr David Aytone within the kirk whilk was prejudiciall to the passage within the kirk and to the entrie of the seatt under whilk it did lye, it being a foott or thairby heigher than the kirk floor. The

whilk day the said ministers and ruleing elders did ordeane that the pulpett sould stand upon the south side of the kirk be weast the litle kirk durr, and becauss David Cristies seatt was to be removed to give place thairto, did ordeane David Cristies seatt to stand on the north side at the pend, the end of the seat to come to Pityochers with the entrie thairof at the east, and to have a foir-dask, also the seatt to be of the length it was befoir the removeing thairof; also did conclude and ordeane that no buriall sould be in the kirk heirafter; also it was thought fitting and expedient that the foirsaid gravestone sould be maid low and leavelled with the kirk floore.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr F. Carmichaell,
Mr John Chalmer.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Burntiland holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne on the 11 of Maii be Mr John Smith, Moderator, minister at Leslie, &c.

The sessioun book appoyntit to be visited be Mr John Moncrief. Absents—Mrs James Symeson, Thomas Hogg, Robert Bruce. Ruleing elders present, the Lairds of Bogie, Halyairds, Arnett, Fingask, Mr David Weyms, James Scrimgeor, John Colyear.

Anent ane place for the Laird of Orrok to build ane seatt in the kirk of Burntiland, the Presbytrie ordeanes that the Laird of Orroks seatt sallbe built aither about the northwest pillar or in the east quarter not comeing without the briest as the town of Burntiland sall think fittest, and that the said town sall give thair determinate anser concerning thair optioun to the Presbytrie this day fyftein dayes with certificatioun that if they doe it not the Presbytrie be thir presents give libertie to the said Laird of Orrok to build his seatt in any of the places he pleases with all convenient diligence, provyding always that if he build in the east quarter he have the length of his seatt aither sixtein footts in front, or els tuo seatts of eight footts in length the one befoir the other where he pleases. Mr John Moncrief reportit that he had tryed Georg Robertson for the schole of Markinche and fund him qualyfied. Compeired John Wilson in Portmook, a runaway from the armie at Newcastell: acknowledgit his fault: remitted to his minister. Compeired Elspett Greive, adultress with Georg Gibbe: resaved hir last injunctiouns. The Kirk of Kingorn is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day and Mr Andro Leslie to preache thair. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif, Mr Mungo Law, and the Laird of Halyairds to meitt at Burntiland upon the 19 day of this instant to deall with the heretors anent the provision of maintenance of the scholemaster of Burntiland.

Anent ane bairne tuo years old unbaptised, it is appoyntit to be baptised, getting a stipulator. 5 lbs resaved from Kingorn to Mr Georg Black. David Thomsons petitioun rejectit.

Kingorn, *Maii* 18.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kingorn holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyn upon the 18 day of May instant be Mr John Smith, Moderator. Absents—

Mrs James Symeson, Thomas Hogg. Ruleing elders present—My Lord Sinclair, The Lairds of Halyairds, Kirkforther, Caskybarrion, Pityocher, Mr David Scrimgeor, Mr Georg Law, Robert Richardsone. Anent buriall in the kirk of Kingorn the brethren according to ane act of the Assemblie of Glasgow inhibiting kirk burialls inhibits any kirk buriall in the kirk of Kingorn heirafter, that is to say within the bodie of the kirk as for the Iles leaves that for further consideratioun. The minister and elders regrats the laik of provisioun for a scholemaster. The brethren appoynts Mr Mungo Law, Mr Andro Leslie, the Laird of Halyairds, and Robert Richdarsone to meitt with the Heretors and to deall with them for that effect. The Presbytrie haveing hard My Lord Generalls desyre craveing a minister to be sent out of the Presbytrie of thair number with his Excellence to Irland presented be the Laird of Halyairds and Mr Frederik Carmichell, and haveing resaved a letter from Mr Alexander Henriesone, minister at Edr mentiouning the order of the Secret Counsell that the Generall and Collonell of this Irish expeditioun mak choyse of thair owne ministers and that the severall Presbyteries sall authorise such to goe as they sall mak choise of have returned this anser to the commissiouners from his Excellence, that the brethren ar most willing to doe all the pleaser they can to his Excellence, and that when his Excell sall mak choyce of his owne minister according to the foirsaid act of Counsell, they sallbe readie to authorise him according to the laws of the Kirk and the order in such causes after the heireing of all who have interest.

The kirk of Auchterdirran is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day and Mr Thomas Melvill appoyntit to preache thair.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . The Kirk of Auchterdirran is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day whilk wasin termitted the last tuo dayes in respect the ministers wer all over the water for the great affairs of the kirk. Mr Robert Cranstowne be his letter craved that seing that he is to goe to Edr to attend the commissioners for the affairs of the kirk that his place may be supplied wherunto the brethren condesendit and appoyntit Mr Harie Wilkie to preache at Skunie the nixt Sabbath. Anent the baptiseing of James Abercrombies bairne (he being under the censures of the kirk at the poynt of excommunicatioun) the brethren inhibits Mr John Chalmer to baptise his bairne till he give obedience and in the meantime ordeanes him to proceid aganest him.

Anent the woman in Burntiland who come out of France with bairne, the brethren thinks she sould be farther dealt with befoir hir repentance be acceptit of. David Thomson to be sowmonit to the nixt day: Margaret Alexrs also.

James Stirk and Merjory Pratt compeireing she affirmeing him to be hir bairnes father, he denyeing that ever he knew hir: they ar appoyntit to be wardit.

AUCHTERDIRRAN, *Junii* 15.

The visitatioun ot the kirk of Auchterdirran holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyn upon the 15 day of Junii be Mr John Smith, Moderator . . . . . Anent

the confirmatioun of the taks of the teynds of the parochine of Auchterdirran, the Presbytrie thinks that the minister may confirm the samyn to them in what he can provydeing the heretors mak him his stypend according to the Act of Parliament. The brethren recommends to the heretors the mending of the kirk yaird dykes. Item to repair the kirk with seatts. Item recommends to them to pay the scholmaster 4 scoir of merks yearlie whilk they had promeised him whilk they acknowledg presentlie and promeises to stent themselves for payment thairof. Mr Josua Meldrom appoyntit to try the Laird of Halyairds this dyet of meitting with the rest at Burntiland for dealeing with the heretors thairanent provisioun for the scholemaster. Compeirit Mart Alexr adultress with Sr Georg Bosuell: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Anent Kathren Edmonds bairne whose alledgit father purged himself be his great oath befoir the congregatioun in Kirkcaldie upon ane Sabbath after foirnoones sermone, the mother of which bairne is dead, the Presbytrie advyses the ministers of Kirkcaldie to baptise the said bairne, and that the sessioun of Kirkcaldie become sponsers for bringing up of the samyn in the fear of God. Mr John Chalmer reportit that he had prayed for James Abercrombie pubicklie pro 1. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to proceid aganest him.

Compeired David Thomson, mealmaker in Kirkcaldie, accused as befoir anent the bairne brought forth be Margaret Wilkie fathered upon him, constantlie denyed that ever he had medled with hir. Ordeaned to purge himself be his great oath befoir the congregatioun of Markinche according to the custome in such cases.

The kirk of Ballingrie is appoyntit to be visited this day eight dayes and Mr John Chalmer to preache thair.

BALLINGRIE, *Junii* 22, 1642.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Ballingrie holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyn be Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie, Moderator . . . The brethren recommends to the elders that they be cairfull to have a schole for upbringing of thair youth. The haill heretors and elders present (the Erles of Rothess and Weyms being absent) promeises to contribute according to thair estates to a scholemaster. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Mungo Law to speak and deall with the Erle of Weyms and Mr John Smith to deale with the Erle of Rothess tutors for that effect. The Presbytrie urges the elders and heretors to repaire thair kirk with all expeditioun. Compeired Christian Sinclair with child as she affirms to one Alexr Dick who constantlie denyes that he ever medled with hir; being confrontit she affirmes and he denyes and she urgeing the same befoir him he spits in hir face *coram* who thairfoir was presentlie put in the joggs and both sowmonit *apud acta* to be present the nixt day in Dysert. Mr John Chalmer reportit that he had prayed twyse for James Abercromhie publiklie: the brethren appoynt him to proceid. Ordeanes Alexr Symeson younger in Dysert, to be sowmonit to the nixt day for calling the elders of Dysert Raiscalls and saying to the minister, be God yee lied. Everie minister to bring his ruleing elder with him nixt day.

Mr Harie Wilkie to preache at Skunie. Mr John Chalmer not to goe over the water the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Junii* 29, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . The kirk of Portmook is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day, Mr Robert Bruce to preache thair. Mr John Chalmer reported that he had prayed for James Abercrombie for the third tyme, also that the said James had sent to him for to offer him satisfactioun. Compeired Alexr Dick ordeaned to humble himself befoir the Presbytrie for his behaviour the last day as also to mak his repentance befoir the congregatioun of Ballingrie on Sonday nixt for his misbehaviour. Cristian Sinclair compeireing constantlie affirms the said Alexr Dick to have layen with hir he denyes yit is content that if it sall be proven that he denyed the last bairne he sall tak with this.

Both ar sowmonit *apud acta* to be present at Portmook this day eight dayes. Alexr Symeson is ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Mr John Smith, Mr John Moncrief, and Mr Georg Gillespie ar chosed commissioners to goe to the Generall Assemblie to be holden at St Androis, and the Erle of Weyms ruleing elder who gave thair oath of fidelitie with uplifted hands. The Laird of Halyairds, Mr David Weyms, Mr John Moncrief, Mr Mungo Law, appoyntit agane *de novo* to meitt at Burntiland to deall with the heretors thair for the maintenance of a scholemaster.

Remitts Elspett Thomson to the sessioun of Auchtertule to resave hir according to hir repentance.

PORTMOOK, *Julii* 6.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Portmook holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyn be Mr John Smith, minister at Leslie . . . Anent the said kirk of Portmook the brethren of the Presbytrie resolves to report to the nixt Provincial Synod that they continew in thair former judgement declaired at thair visitatioun of that kirk anent the incommodious stance thairof bot by reason of difference of judgements betwixt the heretors of the said paroshe, desyres the Provincial Synod further to interpose their authoritie for removal of this difference which hinders transportatioun of the said Kirk, and for that effect the Presbytrie *apud acta* desyres and requyres the said heretors to appear befoir the nixt Provincial Synod of Fyff to be holden at Cuper the 1 Tyseday of October nixt. The Laird of Arnett haveing desyred the Presbytries favour and permissioun that he and his familie may goe to another kirk so oft as he cannot commodiouslie travell to the kirk of Portmook the Presbytrie willinglie agrie to his desyre. The sessioun book of Portmook appoyntit to be visited be Mr Josua Meldrom. The Presbytrie gives thair approbatioun to Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Harie Wilkie to agrie with thair patrons the Erls of Dunfermeline and Mortone. The meitting appoyntit to be nixt at Dysert. The heretors craves the Presbytries concurrence in supplicating for the reparatioun of thair brig which was grantit.

DYSERT, *Julii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moncrieff who was appoyntit to speake with

the Erle of Mortone anent the transportatioun of the kirk of Portmook reportit that he had spoken with him and that he had plainlie refused, and said that if it wer pressed he wold oppose it. Mr Frederik Carmichell reportit that when David Thomson come to have given his oath anent the bairne fathered upon him he come fordward with ane smyling laughing countenance not beseimeing one in such a caise: ordeaned to mak his publik repentance for his light behaviour befoir he be admitted to his oath with certificatioun that if he come so agane he sall mak his repentance *toties quoties* whilk was intimated him being present. Anent the brethrens concurrence with the paroshiners of Portmook and thair supplicatioun to the Secret Counsell the brethren appoynts Mr John Moncrief and ane other of the brethren to concurr with them. Commissioun for the Generall Assemblie to be holden at St Androis to be subscryvit.

The brethren concludes to collect for the distressed people of Irland. Anent John Mitchells appellatioun from the Sessioun of Kingorn to the Presbytrie the brethren finds it *male appellatum* and thairfoir remitts him back agane to the sessioun of Kingorn.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that David Thomson compeireing befoir the congregatioun of Markinche to mak his repentance for his former light behaviour did make the mater worse be anticipating of his oath and that he had cited him to be present this day who being called and not compeireing is appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Alexr Symsone being called, compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. The greatest part of the brethren declaired that they had maid intimatioun of the collectioun for Irland and the rest promeises to doe it.

Margaret Miller in the parochine of Skunie being sowmonit for curseing David Anderson, called : compeired not : appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day, pro 2. Anent some persons in the congregatioun of Kinglessie who ar alledgit to have used some witchcraft, it is thought meitt that all who wer accessorie thairto sall mak thair repentance. Mr Robert Bruce reported that Alexander Dick had confessed his fornicatioun with Cristian Sinclaire. Mr James Creightone and Mr Robert Sinclair tuo ministers of Irland remitted to the severall kirks for particular support.

DYSERT, *August* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . One Mistress Stewart come from Irland is appoyntit to get some support. Anent the goeing of the Saltpans it is enacted that the act of the General Assemblie of Aberdein be extractit and appoyntit. Mr Robert Cranstown to conferr with the Erle of Weyms thairanent. Anent the woman of Dysert challengit with witchcraft, that process to be revysed. Anent tuo unconstant persons in the mater of thair mariage (it is ordeaned) that they sall mak thair repentance for thair levitie and thairafter being both content to be maryed.

Compeired David Thomson : ordeaned to mak his repentance for anticipating of his oath and giveing of the samyn befoir he was desyred.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Cranstowne reported that he had spoken with the Erle of Weyms who had put off his anser anent the setting of the Saltpans till the Assemblie. The Presbytrie ar to advyse to the nixt day and desyres Mr Patrik Gillespie to git the Act of Assemblie at Aberdein for cleiring that mater. Anent Barbara Balrams supplicatioun for libertie from ward in the Tolbooth of Dysert, ordeans hir to use all possible diligence for tryeing whidder or not hir oy be baptised. A letter being sent from Mr Robert Bruce, minister at Aberdour, anent some difference betwixt him and Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, the brethren appoynts the Moderator to writt to him that he will meitt with them at the visitatioun of Leslie that the mater may be taine away amicablie.

DYSERT, *August* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Gilespie produced the Act of the Generall Assemblie at Aberdein anent the standing of the Saltpans on the Sabbath day determining the samyn whilk act is ordeaned to be registrat in the Presbytrie book. The Erle of Weyms be the mouth of Mr David Weyms desyred that they wold doe nothing thairanent till he be present the nixt day, whilk was granted. Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that David Thomson had maid his repentance for giveing his oath rashlie befoir he was desyred. The Presbytrie advyses the said Mr Frederik to deall sometimes with him befoir the Synod, and as he finds him dispossed to crave the Synods advyce concerning him: sowmones him publiklie to come befoir the congregatioun of Markinche upon Sunday come eight dayes to be readie to give his oath. The Presbytrie desyres the ministers of Kirkcaldie and Kingorn to concurr with the ministers of Dysert in tryell of one who is apprehendit for presumptioun of witchcraft.

The whilk day the Laird of Balmowto be his letters of presentatioun presenting Mr John Chalmer to the kirk of Auchterdirran, the Presbyirie refuses to give him collatioun thairupon in respect that he presents him to the manss and gleib as accords of the law onlie and simplie. Anent ane young man at Dysert who hes slanderit ane young woman affirmeing that he lay with hir, the Presbytrie continews till they know of the ordinance of Bnrntiland given out aganest David Brown thair in the lyk caise. Anent some of the parochine of Kinglessie who had come from the armie at Carlaverok and not returned (haveing a pass) for fear of goeing to Irland the Presbytrie thinks it sufficient that they confess thair fault befoir the sessioun. Anent the Burser of Theologie the Presbytrie appoynts the Clerk to look his admissioun and gif thair be any prorogatioun.

The Act of the General Assemblie at Aberdein, Julii 30, 1640. Act Sessioun 3 appoyntit to be registrat whereof the tenor follows :—

Forsomuckle as it was represented to the Assemblie that notwithstand of former acts maid anent the profaneing of the Lords day by salmond fisheing goeing of Milnes and Saltpans yit after the tuo sermons wer endit they began to thair fisheing heirabout this town in both the tuo waters of Die and Done, whereupon the

Assemblie took ocasioun to declaire that obstinacie from the said salmond fisheing not goeing of Milnes and Saltpans and obstanacie from all other work on the Lords day sall be from midnyt to midnight.

Extractit forth of the book of the Generall Assemblie holden at Aberdein be me James Murray, Clerk depute thairto by the Assemb to Mr Archbald Johnston, Clerk to the General Assemblie.

Sic Subscribiter,

J. Murray, Clerk depute.

Leslie, *August* 31.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Leslie holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyn upon the last day of August instant be Mr Mungo Law, Moderator for the tyme . . . The Presbytrie recommends to the heretors and to the Erle of Rothess his friends the reparatioun of the kirk whilk is verie ruinous, the reparatioun of the ministers manss whilk is also very ruinous, and the ministers meane estait requyreing them to have a cair for the reparatioun and the bettering of all that they wold meitt and tak a solid courss for expeditioun of all whilk My Lord of Newtown and My Lord of Balgonie promeises to doe with all diligence and for that effect appoynts to meitt upon Thursday come eight dayes in Leslie at ten hours and with them Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr John Chalmer, Ministers, and the Laird of Arnett. Anent the young man in Dysert who hes slanderit ane young woman, with whom he affirms he hed committed fornicatioun, maliciouslie, ordeanes him to satisfie as ane fornicator, by paying his peneltie and makeing his repentance accordinglie.

Anent the Burser of Theologie it was concluded and agreid be the brethren that the present Burser Mr Harie Pitcairne sall have four years maintenance, the year 1642 being the last of them, and these who hes not payit in time bypast to pay accordinglie, and heirafter declaires the Bursers place to be vaccund. Anent the Saltpans Mr James McGill declaired that the Erle of Weyms excuses himself for bygone absence and promeises to be present the nixt day in Dysert whilk was acceptit. It is appoyntit that the 2 Sabbath of September nixt and the Wednesday thairafter, sallbe keipt as solemn fasting dayes. Anent the difference betwixt Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie, and Mr Robert Bruce, minister at Aberdour for settling that mater in an amicable and peaceable maner they both ar content to submit the heireing of thair differences, the said Mr Robert Bruce to Mr John Duncan and the Laird either of Fordell or Babugie for him, and the said Mr Thomas Melvill nominats for him Mr John Smith and the Laird of Athernie for him at Kinglessie to meet upon Moonday the 5 day of September. Mr John Chalmer reported that he had visited the sessioun book of Ballingrie and fand 7 dollars borrowed out of the box bot nowhere who borrowed them nor to what usse. Mr Robert Bruce anserit that was done befoir his comeing thair and was lent to put out some sojours. The book of Leslie appoyntit to be visited be Mr Frederik Carmichell. David Tullus his petitioun hard and continewed.

The names of the Elders and Heretors of Leslie:—

The Erle of Rothes, the Laird of Strathenrie, the Laird of Forther, the Laird of Halhill, David Cristie, Mr David Aytown.

Elders—

Strathenrie, John Aikine, John Wabster, Thomas Thomson, James Robertson, James Brown, Peiter Birrell, Thomas Bennett, John Skinner, Robert Malcolme, William Beattie, Andro Robertson.

DYSERT, *September* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the goeing of Saltpans compeired John Erle of Weyms and with him the Clerk of Register who gave in reasons (as he calls them) which onlie tendit to the continuance of the break of the Sabbath and delay to the Assemblie the which reasons being read the brethren taks them to thair consideratioun and appoynts Mr Robert Cranstown and Athernie to advyse anent them aganest the morne eight dayes where the brethren are to meitt at Kirkcaldie and appoynts the Erle of Weyms to bring with aganest that day what further reasons he can alledge. A solemn fast was intimate the last Sabbath whilk is to be universallie keipt in all the kingdom the nixt Sabbath and the Wednesday following. Anent the difirence betwixt Mr Robert Bruce minister at Aberdour and Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr John Smith reportit that Mr Robert Bruce come to Kinglessie accompanyed with his brother Mr Walter directlie aganest conditioun and petitioun and that they could not bring them to any poynt. The brethren appoynts the Moderator to writt to Mr Robert Bruce that he will agree with Mr Thomas Melvill friendlie or ells they will suffer Mr Thomas to complein of the said Mr Robert to the Synod. Mr Thomas Melvill reported that he had visited the sessioun book of Auchterdirran as he was appoyntit and approved it. The Laird of Balmowto his presentatioun to Mr John Chalmer rejected for the former reasons. Compeired Janet, Moreis, adultress: resaved hir last injunctiouns. It is ordeaned that all adulterers heirafter sall stand the last thrie Sabbaths of thair repentance in the kirk durr barefoot betwixt the second and third bell befoir they be resaved. The whilk day also compeired Barbara Dryburgh in Myresyd, Durie adultress with David Henrieson who resaved hir first injunctiouns.

Compeired Nicholas Crawfuird who confessit that she committed adulterie with Thomas Olyphand and thairafter she whent to Hieland where she mett with Robert Banes as also that she was goeing to Irland with the said Robert when he was tane away in the meantime to the wars. Appoynts to try the sessioun book of Kirkcaldie anent hir. Compeired Margaret Miller from Skunnie for curseing ane Elder thair: rebuked: remitted to hir minister to satisfie.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Nicholais Crawfuird the brethren ar satisfied with the relatioun from the sessioun of Kirkcaldie who declaired that all was proven aganest hir which was alledgit who haveing banished hir befoir have now ordeaned hir to be banished agane. Questioun proponed if all the brethren had keipt the fast

with preparatioun befoir the samyn. All ansered affirmitive. A letter resaved from Mr Robert Douglas Moderator, of the last Generall Assemblie that these who ar members of the committie appoyntit be the Generall Assemblie be present in Edr on the 21 day of this instant as also desyred that a contributioun for Irland may be expede. Mr John Chalmer his presentatioun from the Laird of Balmowto to the Kirk of Auchterdirran sein and owned be the brethren. The brethren haveing sein the Laird of Cardons diligence in obteinning his baronie of Cardons to be disjoned from the parochine of Kingorne and adjoyned to the parochine of Auchterdirran allowes of the samyn and commends him for his diligence and good affectioun. Anent the Saltpans compeired the Erle of Weyms Sr Georg Hamilton of Blaikburne, Sr John Weyms of Bogie Saltmasters who gave in a new paper importing the necessitie of the goeing of Saltpans upon the Sabbath. The brethren ar content to anser the samyn and appoynts the Moderator to draw exceptiouns in writt aganest his first reasons and send them to the Erle of Weyms betwixt and the nixt day and for his last paper appoynts Mr James Symeson, Mr Mungo Law and Patrik Gilespie to consider the samyn and to anser it the nixt day in Dysert where the brethren ar to meitt.

DYSERT, *September* 21, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . The Erle of Weyms sending ane letter shewing that he is necessarie in Edr, all process anent the Saltpans continewed to the nixt day. David Henrieson in Skunnie parochine, adulterer with Barbara Dryburgh in Kennoquhie, being thryse publicklie sowmonit to satisfie for his fault, and given no obedience is ordeaned to be proceeded aganest with the censures of the kirk. Compeired Margaret Pearson trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir first injunctiouns to satisfie as ane adultress and remitted to hir minister. Mr Josua Meldrom reported that he had visited the sessioun booke of Portmook, and fand that thair was not sessioun keipt everie Sabbath ordinarlie. The brethren recommends this to the minister to be mendit. One Anna Griffith craveing support, haveing ane warrand from the Generall Assemblie to that effect, the brethren of the Presbytrie, at least the greatest part of them, supported hir. Anent Margaret Wilson who was deteined in the Steiple of Dysert for suppositioun of witchcraft, compeireing denyed all. The Presbytrie finding no such grownds as to put hir to ane assyse thinks, till they can find further, that may dismiss hir upon cautioun to anser when she sallbe requyred. Mr Harie Wilkie desyred of the brethren that seing they have obteined ane act of Secret Counsell for reparation of thair bridge as they call it, that the brethren would concur with them with the Synod to have thair authoritie interponed thairto whilk the brethren promeisses to doe.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the Saltpans, the Erle of Weyms this day gave in another paper whilk is appoyntit to be anserit be Mr James Symeson and Patrik Gilespie and the anser to his former appoyntit to be considered be Mr Robert Cranstown and Mr Mungo Law, and draw them all in one.

The whilk day delyvered to Mr David Tullus for the kirk of Kirkcaldie, a doller. Item from Dysert, a dollar. Item from Kingorn, ane doller. Item from Ballingrie, 30sh. Item from Skunnie, 38sh. Item from Portmook, 30sh, the rest promeises to help them also. The Moderator nominates Mr William Nairne and Mr Frederik Carmichell for the Moderatorshipp of the Assemblie. The brethren being removed for thair tryell *per vices*, each praises God for others, and wishes them to be thankful for Gods graces bestowed upon them.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 12.

The whilk day the Presbytrie with the other commissioners from the Presbytrie of St Androis, Cuper, and Dunfermeline, viz. Mr James Bruce, minister at Kingsbarns, Mr Georg Hamilton, minister at Newbirn, the Lairds of Ardrois and Kincraige, Mr Alexander Balfour, minister at Ebdie, Mr Patrik Scougall, minister at Dairsie, the Laird of Cullerine and Dunnimuire, Mr John Duncan, minister at Culroiss, Mr James Symson, minister at Torrieburne, the Laird of Resythe and Sr Georg Preston of Valleyfield being all convenied and haveing considered the commissioun given to them from the last Provincial Synod at Cuper anent the transportatioun of Mr Harie Wilkie from the kirk of Portmook to the kirk of Weyms unless the paroshiners of Portmook should represent unto them forcible reasons to the contrar having also resaved a sowmons indorsat whilk were given out be the Moderator and Clerk of the Synod sowmoning the said paroshiners to compeire the said day for the effect foirsaid which sowmonds the ministers and paroshiners thair present acknowledged haveing also hard, and considered the reasons given in be the Erle of Weyms for the expedience of the foirsaid transportatioun, full libertie being given to the afoirsaid minister aud paroshiners of Portmook to replie thairto, and to reason in the contrair all the reasons and replies *hinc inde* being dulie pondered, as also full satisfactioun being given to some reverend brethren direct by the commissioun to enquyre of the Erle of Weyms the reasons of his passing from the presentatioun of the ordinance of the Generall Assemblie anent the transportatioun of Mr Walter Grig, minister at Balmirrinoche to the said kirk of Weyms. The Presbytrie with the commissioners foirsaid being satisfied in all the premises have without ane contrairie voyce ordeaned the said Mr Harie Wilkie to transport from his present charge at Portmook to the ministrie of the kirk of the Weyms and that with all convenient diligence, The said day the Presbytery appoynted Mr Harie Wilkie to requyre the paroshiners of Portmook to be present the nixt day at the Presbytrie without faill that the Presbytrie with thair consent may condesend upon a lite to be presented to his Matie, out of which one may be presented according to the act of the Generall Assemblie. The whilk day also Mr Thomas Melvill was chosen Moderator be pluralitie of voyces till the nixt Assemblie.

DYSERT, *October* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the resting of the Saltpans upon the Sabbath the Erle of Weyms present in the Presbytrie freelie offered of his own accord that

all his Saltpans in the Weyms and my Lord Sinclairs pans in Dysert sall stand upon the Lords day dureing the whole time of summer beginning at Pashe till Michelmes from 6 oklok in the morning till 10 at nyt and in the winter from Michelmes till Pashe from seven hours in the morning till 10 hours at nyt and that everie salter that sall be found to contravene sall pay four punds of penaltie *toties quoties* and sall be subject to kirk censure and sall lye at the croce in stocks from Moonday in the morning till nyt, and oblishes himself for payment of the penaltie, for which the Presbytrie rendered thanks to the Lord and his Lordschipp hopeing in time to obteine further. Anent the questioun waved be Mr John Moncrief, minister at Kingorn what courss sould be taken with thois who being accused of scandell did suborne the witnesses—It was ansered that besyd satisfactioun for the said scandell proven aganest the partie for suborneing of the witness thinks he deserves no less censure than to mak his confessioun in the place of publik repentance.

Ruleing Elders present—the Erle of Weyms, the Laird of Arnett, and Kirkferther, Mr James Moneypennie, Mr Andrew Moncrief, Mathew Andersone. Compeired John Hepburn, adulterer with Elspett Gudlad: resaved his last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The paroshiners of Portmook not compeireing as they wer appoyntit, the minister craved earnestlie another day for thair compeirence whilk the brethren grantit and appoynts them to be present the nixt day. The process of the sessioun of Kennoquhie aganest Robert Durie of Easter Newtone being referred from the said sessioun to the Presbytrie for good reasons is accepted of the Presbytrie and the said Robert appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

Mr William Thrift craveing to be admitted scholemaster at Auchtertule he is appoyntit to bring ane testimonial of his good behaviour from the parts where he remained. David Thomson to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *November* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr William Thrift sent excuse for his absence this day. The Erle of Weyms produced ane presentatioun from the Towne Counsell of Edr presenting Mr Harie Wilkie to the kirk of Weyms with all ryts and prilviliges belonging thairto, whereof the Presbytrie accepts. The Parochiners of Portmook being appoyntit to be heire this day, none compeired, except Sr William Douglas thair ordinar ruleing Elder who craved that the brethren wold continew to give in any list for the kirk of Portmook till word was sent to the Erle of Mortone and anser returned. The Presbytrie refuses so to doe, yit for the respect they carrie to the minister and parochiners they ar content to delay to nominate thair list to this day fyftein dayes with certificatioun that whidder they compeire or not, thay will proceid the same day to nominate thair list, and causs direct ane edict to be served at the kirk of Weyms the Sabbath thairafter, for resaveing of Mr Harie Wilkie minister of the said kirk, as also the brethren declaired to the

said Sr William Dougias that the parochiners of Portmook had failed in not sending thair commissioners to them as they wer appoyntit.

The Presbytrie present represents Mr David Bennett to thair Bursers place dureing thair pleasure.

The whilk day also the sowmons aganest Robert Durie of Easter Newtowne wer returned and served indorsat be Georg Thomson. The said Robert compeirand to anser for his contempt for the holie communioun, and refuseing reconciliatioun with his neighbours, craved the space of ane month to absolve himself anent his reconcilatioun which was grantit to him. The submissioun betwixt Mr Frederik Carmichell minister at Markinche and David Bennett, anent part of his gleib sein be the brethren and allowed. Mr Harie Wilkie desyred the brethren that they wold contribute to the repaireing of the Gulatts and calsay of Scotland Well, according to ane act of Secret Counsell and ane act of the Synod of Cuper to that effect. The brethren promeises that when the parochiners of Portmook sall come to thair severall kirks they sall be willing, bot yit referrs the samyne to this day fyftein dayes. Janet Nicolson in Auchterdirran ordeaned to be sowmonit to this day eight dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 9.

The whilk day Mr William Nairne, Mr James Symeson and Mr John Smith ar appoyntit, to try Mr William Thrift in his gramer, for the schole of Auchtertule. The Laird of Bogie and Harie Weyms offers themselfs willinglie to conform themselfs in all poynts anent the standing of thair Saltpans upon the Lords day according as the Erle of Weyms hes done. The towne and parochine of Kirkcaldie haveing given in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie to have the Presbytrie to sit always at the Burgh of Kirkcaldie as at the beginning, the Presbytrie continews thair anser thairto till they heire thair reasons for the samyne, and till the town of Dysert be also hard what they have to say in the contrair. The lite of the expectants given in be the Presbytrie they nominats for the kirk of Portmook, Mr Georg Ogilbie, Mr James McGill, Mr Lawrence Olyphand, Mr Alexr Moncrief, Mr William Olyphand and Mr William Row.

Compeired David Henrieson, adulterer with Barbara Dryburgh and resaved his first injunctiouns. Compeired Kathren Archbald in Kirkcaldie, quadrelapse in fornicatioun: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress and resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired also the said Andro Norvell, adulterer with Elspett Moreis: resaved his first injunctiouns. A questioun being proponed be the ministers of Dysert, what sallbe done with tuo parties who wer banished from thair licentious lyveing, who returned and craved the benefit of mariage; ansers that they be caused to mak thair repentance for thair former faults and thairafter to be banished.

DYSERT, *November* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr William Nairne reported that they had tryed Mr William Thrift and fownd him qualified for the schole of Auchtertule: approved.

Appoynts ane edict to be servit at the Kirk of Weyms the nixt Sabbath for

resaveing of Mr Harie Wilkie minister thair this day fyftein dayes. Mr Thomas Hogg is appoyntit to preache thair the nixt Sabbath and to intimate the samyne and Mr Thomas Melvill, Moderator, to preache at his admissioun this day fyftein dayes. The brethren of the Presbytrie grants to contribute to the calsay of Portmook when thair commissioners comes for collecting the samyne.

The towne of Kirkcaldie haveing given in reasons for settling the Presbytrie altogether at the towne of Kirkcaldie, the towne of Dysert this day gave in reasons for retaineing the samyne as it is thair reasons all to be hard and considered the nixt day. The Presbytrie grants yit the nixt day of meitting to the parochiners of Portmook to compeire and be hard and to give thair consent to the list peremptorlie and appoynts the minister to signifie the samyne to them. Compeired David Thomson in Kirkcaldie: ordeaned to purge himself of the slander of adultrie in the Kirk of Markinche the nixt Sabbath and to come to the Presbytrie the nixt day thairafter in Kirkcaldie. Anent the questioun proponed be Sr James Melvill of Halhill what sallbe done to a man who haveing contractit a woman and thryce proclaimed if he may be compelled to mary hir. Anser, not, bot to satisfie for his levitie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 23, 1642.

The whilk day . . . . . The edict from the Weyms being served returned indorsat. The brethren appoynts to meitt at Weyms the nixt for resaveing of Mr Harie Wilkie minister thair in respect that all persons being called at the kirk durr thryse that had anything to object aganest his entrie to compeire and be hard none compeired. David Cristie and John Gay commissioners from the sessioun of Dysert compeiring gave in ane petitioun for keiping thair libertie of bruiking the Presbytrie *per vices* and craveing to have a sight of the reasons given in be the towne of Kirkcaldie in thair contrair to be advysit with in ansering them. The Presbytrie continews thair anser to thair petitioun to this day aught dayes and refuses to give them the reasons of Kirkcaldie as not pertinent to them to consider of bot to the Presbytrie and for eshewing hait betwixt the townes. Compeired Janet Nicolson in the Parochin of Auchterdirran convict of slanderous behaviour with David Browne, having satisfied for the samyne and immediatelie thairafter acted hirself that in caise she sould be fownd guiltie of the lyk (with hir owne consent) she sould be holden in repute as ane adultress becauss it was uncertaine whidder hir husband was dead or not as the act of sessioun bears: resaved hir first injunctions. 8 Merks resaved be Mr John Smith from the kirk of Leslie for the Burser of Theologie. Item 6 Merks from Auchterdirran. Item from Kinglessie for tuo years 16 Merks. Item from Kirkcaldie 22 Merks. Item Mr Harie Wilkie payit tuo years to Mr Harie Pitcairne 8 lbs as payment to him for 4 years.

Anent the parochine of Portmook compeired David Balfour of Bello giveing in ane supplicatioun craveing that the paroshiners of Portmook might not be altogither excluded from haveing a voit in the list for a minister to them.

The Presbytrie demandit of Sr William Douglas ruleing Elder of the said

parochine what they meant thairby who declaired that might have the denomination of thrie of the six to be lited whilk the Presbytrie thought not agreeable to the act of the Generall Assemblie and thairfoir according to thair former act presented the list to them craveing thair consent thairto. They ar content and promeises to come this day fyftein dayes and resave the list and to give consent thairto.

WEYMS, *November* 30, 1642.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Melvill, Moderator, preached, Text, Col. 4. Ruleing Elders present—James Aytone of Kinglessie, Mr James Wilkie, Mr John Smith—Mr Robert Bruce, and Mr Josua Meldrom thair absence excused. The Presbytrie takeing to thair grave consideratioun the frequencies of adulterie committed now adayes after the subscryveing of our covenant and promeise of amendment of our lyves and the not executing of the civil laws aganest them, for thair parts ordeanes that in all time comeing adulterers sall sit the whole time of thair repentance makeing in sackcloath, and the thrie last Sabbaths sall stand at the kirk durr betwixt the second and third bell barefoot and in sackcloath befoir they goe to the stool and the third day (they obeying all to be resaved). Anent the reasons of the towne of Dysert for retaineing thair libertie of the Presbytrie to meitt at thair town *per vices* the brethren taks them to be considered of this day fyftein dayes. Mr Harie Wilkie was resaved minister of the said kirk the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Portmook compeired David Balfour of Bellow in name of the rest of the parochiners craveing yit eight dayes continuatioun at what time he promeises they shall resave the list and give thair consent thairto. The Presbytrie grants to his desyre and appoynts this day eight dayes to them peremptorlie. Compeired Robert Durie of Easter Newtone to anser for refuseing to be reconcilled with his neighbors ; he craves a tyme to advyse thairanent and is content to submit the mater and to that effect nominats David Auchmutie of that Ilk Knyt Sr John Weyms of Bogie, Mr James Symeson, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr William Nairne, and Mr John Moncrief. The Presbytrie gives commissioun to the foirnamed persons to deall betwixt him and his partie for reconcillatioun and to meitt for that effect at Kirkcaldie the morne fyftein dayes.

Compeired Margaret Clark, incestuous person with Mr James Nairn in Dysert : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

The kirk of Weyms paid 16 lbs for Mr Harie Pitcairne, Burser. The whilk day also ane testimonial being produced be Mr John Moncrief anent tbe baptiseing of ane bairne, the Presbytrie thinks he may baptise the bairne. A letter being direct from my Lord Chancellor anent idle persons to be sent to the wars in France the Presbytrie promeises thair concurrence.

DYSERT, *December* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . The parochiners of Portmook haveing nominat Mr

Robert Keith to be as one of thair list of expectants, the Presbytrie nominats Mr William Row who is chosen to be the sixth man to make up the list.

Mr Georg Gilespie be his letter declaired that he and Mr Harie Wilkie had fullie agreed anent the manss of Weyms. Compeired David Thomson who for his yit precipitating of his oath anent his purgatioun of adulterie is ordeaned to mak his repentance befoir the pulpett of Markinche on Sonday and thairafter to compeire befoir the Presbytrie this day eight dayes to heir the Presbytries further will concerning him who refuseing to obey, is ordeaned presentlie to be wardit in the Tolbooth of Dysert till he find cautioun to obey whilk was done accordinglie. Anent the change of the Presbytrie saught be the towne of Kirkcaldie, the Presbytrie continews to hold the same as it is that is to say to be at Kirkcaldie and Dysert *per vices.*

DYSERT, *December* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell reportit that David Thomson had obeyed the Presbytries last ordinance aganest him and had purged himself be his great oath of the adulterie alledgit upon him ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day that order may taine with him for hls adulterous behaviour. Mr John Chalmer is appoyntit to preache at Portmook the nixt Sabbath and to intimate the list to them and Mr Thomas Melvill the Sabbath thairafter.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Sr William Douglas of Kirkness reportit that the sessioun of Portmook had agreed among themselfs and had nominat Mr Georg Ogilbie to be thair minister and desyres to heir him. The Presbytrie ar content and appoynts the Clerk to writt to him and come over the water and preache at Portmook upon the Sabbath nixt or ells the Sabbath following and if he come not the nixt Sabbath, appoynts Mr Robert Bruce to preache thair.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . A questioun being proponed be the ministers of Kirkcaldie anent Elspett Lumsden who was appoyntit to be banished the towne of Kirkcaldie what sallbe done with hir seing she desyres first to satisfie the kirk for hir fault, the Presbytrie thinks meitt that she be resaved to hir repentance first. Mr Robert Bruce is appoynted to speak to Sr William Douglas of Kirkness anent the provydeing of the kirk of Portmook.

Compeired Isobell Dick adultress with Patrik Mackenzie who verie frielie and ingenuouslie confessit hir fault with many tears craveing God humblie pardon that she had so many years layen in that sinn ever denyeing it and for hir great hypocrisie who under the professioun of the Gospell had led such a leud lyff: resaved hir last injunctiouns. The Presbytrie supported Nicholas Black ane Irish minister.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Bruce reported that he had spoken with

the Laird of Kirkness anent the parochiners of Portmook to come and consent to the list.

Compeired Elspett Lumsden who haveing committed once adultrie and twyse fornicatioun resaved hir first injunctions. Anent Kathren Robertson who is with bairne of whose husbands death there is no certaintie the Presbytrie thinks that she sould satisfie as ane adultress.

Mr John Smith is appoyntit to preache at Skunie the nixt Sabbath and to deall with the parochiners that they be diligent for provisioun of a minister.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell sought to have a gleib desygnit to him. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill, Moderator to goe to Markinche and desygne the samyne. Informatioun and anser to the croce petitioun resaved ar ordeaned to be read in all the kirks the nixt Sabbath and a fast intimate to be held upon the Sabbath and the Thursday following.

The collectioun of Burntiland for Irland delyverit to Mr John Smith. Sr William Douglas reported that the parochiners of Portmook ar verie weill contented and pleased with Mr George Ogilvie. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr John Chalmer to goe thither and deall with the parochiners to come and consent to the list. Mr Robert Bruce is appoyntit at Portmook the nixt Sabbath. 8 lbs resaved from John Rynd to the Burser Mr David Bennett for the kirk of Weyms.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that he and Mr John Chalmer went and spake with the heretors and elders of Portmook at Arnett who shew themselfs verie willing of a minister and desyred that they might have a minister to preache to them nixt Sabbath to whom they hope to give contentment. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer to goe thither the nixt Sabbath and they appoynt him and Sr James Melvill to goe to My Lady Mortone if need be to deall with hir for hir consent.

Compeired David Browne who haveing bein discharged to haunt Janet Nicolsons companie and thairafter had acted himself for abstinence from hir companie utherways to suffer as ane adulterer who confessed the samyne and haveing failed is ordeaned to satisfie as ane adulterer : resaved his first injunctiouns. Mr John Smith is appoyntit to speak with David Bennett anent his medow in Markinche which Mr Frederik Carmichell does challenge as a part of the Gleib. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr William Nairn and Mr John Chalmer to goe with the Moderator upon advertisement to Markinche to desygne Mr Frederiks Gleib to him. The brethren reported that the warning and declairatioun aganest the croce petitioun was read in all the kirks. Mr Fredrik Carmichell reported that David Thomson craved some lisense for further satisfactioun in respect he has to doe with the law whilk was grantit. The Presbytrie grants to support Agnes Stewart relict of Mr John Malcolm, minister, who was killed in Irland.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 22, 1643.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Davidson commissioner from the parochiners of Portmook who presented his commissioun in wreatt bearing thair full consent to the list proponed to them and that they had pitched upon Mr Georg Ogilbie one of the said list whom they desyred to be thair minister if so be the presentatioun may be purchased to him whereunto the Presbytrie consented. Mr Frederik Carmichell presented ane note of 300 merks resaved be John Meine (resaver of the contributioun for Irland) from him. Kathren Brown compeireing convictt of adulterie : resaved hir first injunctiouns. The brethren supported Agnes Stewart according to thair promeise.

Ordeanes the Clerk to insert the covenant into the Presbytrie book with the declaratioun of the Assemblie of Glasgow that it may be subscryvit be all that ar members of the Presbytrie and sall be heirafter.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren of the Presbytrie without a contrarie voyse ordeanes that these who hes violate the late bygone fast by working sallbe punished as breakers of the Sabbath and this act to have force in all time comeing.

Mr John Moncrief all his bygone absences excused, also Mr John Smiths who reported a ticket from John Meine of the receipt of ane hundreth and thretie punds 2 sh resaved be him as collector of the Irish contributioun from the said Mr John Smith for the parochine of Burntiland. Mr John Moncrief is appoynted to preache at Skunie the nixt Sabbath, Mr Josua Meldrom to preache at Portmook.

DYSERT, *March* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Forbes produced ane sufficient testimonial from the Presbytrie of Deer whilk was accepted. Compeired John Russell and Marion Dewar in Burntiland she affirming him to be hir bairnes father : he denyes. The mater remitted back to the sessioun of Burntiland to be further tryed. Compeired Mart Alexr in Auchterdirran adultress with Sr Georg Bosuell : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired also Isobell Aiken in Kinglessie trelapse in fornicatioun, ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired my Lord Elcho, Sr Georg Hamilton of Blaikburn, William Rigg of Athernie, who produced a letter from the Lords of his Maties Secret Counsell conservators of peace and commissioners for the cowmon burdens desyreing the advyce and concurrence of the brethren for moveing of thair people that ar able to lenn chearefullie upon good suretie for the relief of the distressed armie in Irland, whilk the Presbytrie undertook to doe, and promeises to return thair diligence this day fyftein dayes.

Compeired William Rigg of Athernie who desyred the Presbytrie to provyde

the kirk of Skunnie with a minister aganest the nixt Sabbath and to mak a list of six able men for the planting of the said kirk of Skunie according to the act of the General Assemblie holden at St Androis, August 3, 1642, whereunto the Presbytrie wer willing and listed these six following, viz Mr Alex Moncrief, Mr James McGill Mr Alex Cant, Mr John Dunlap, Mr Hero Eccles, and Mr William Row to the which list the said William Rigg warranted with a commissioun from the parochiners did consent iu thair name and forder did signifie to the Presbytrie that the whole parochiners with unanimous consent had pitched upon Mr Alexander Moncrief one of the six and thairfoir did desyre that the Presbytrie wold concur with the parochiners of Skunie for obtaineing a presentatioun to him if it wer possible whereunto the Presbytrie did heartilie yield and thairfoir desyred the Moderator in thair name to send over the list to the Kirks Advocate with the extract of the act to that effect. Mr Mungo Law is appoyntit to preache at Skunie the nixt Sabbath, Mr James Smyeson the Sabbath following in respect that the Presbytrie ar to meitt at the Assemblie the nixt weik. The brethren and ruleing Elders being according to the laudable custome of our Kirk removed for thair tryell befoir the Provincial wer fownd approven onlie Mr Robert Bruce was gravelie exhorted to more painfull and diligent in his studies. The Presbytrie nominates Mr John Smith and Mr Frederik Carmichell to be of that list of the Synod out of which the Moderator is to be chosen.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *Februari* 22, 1643.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie ordeaned the Clerk to insert into thair book of Presbytrie the Confessioun of Faith called the Covenant.

(*On the nixt six pages there is written in full the National Covenant with the declaration of the Assemblie of Glasgow of 1638 signed by the ministers and elders of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy.*)

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 12, 1643.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts John Russell who is deteined in ward in Burntiland to be sett at libertie and brought hither the nixt day. Mr Harie Wilkie be pluralitie of voyces is chosen Moderator till the nixt synod.

David Livingstone ane decayed merchand recomended be the Synod to the Presbytries for help the brethren promeises to help him this day fyftein dayes. The Presbytrie takeing the distressed estait of Thomas Peirs and David Hogg captives in Argiers to hart they promeises to collect for thair relief and appoynts Mr John Chalmer and his ruleing elder to goe to the Presbytrie of Dunfermeline and Mr John Smith and his ruleing elder to goe to the Presbytrie of Cuper to desyre thair concurrence for thair relief. The brethren of the Presbytrie ar content to contribute for the relief of Irland.

DYSERT, *Aprile* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Sr James Melvill and Captan Andro Watsone proponed to the brethren that they wold nominat a list of able men for Burntiland.

The Presbytrie continews the nominatioun of the said list till the nixt day and appoynts commissioners to be sent from Burntiland the nixt day to consent thairto.

The whilk day also David Corsall in Weyms gave in ane supplicatioun for the relief of ane James Dancer who is deteined captive in Argier the brethren taks it to thair consideratioun till the nixt day. Compeired John Russell still denyeing fornicatioun with Marion Dewar, he is appoyntit to purge himself be his great the nixt Sabbath in Burntiland.

KIRKCALDIE, *Aprile* 26.

The whilk day Sr James Melvill of Halhill and Robert Richardson commissioners from Burntiland craved from the Presbytrie that they wold nominate a list for Burntiland. The Presbytrie yields thairto and settles in thair list upon Mr John Smith, Mr Mungo Law, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr John Moncrief, Mr Frederik Carmichell, and Mr Patrik Gilespie whose names should be sent to the Kings Matie that he may be pleased (according to the act of the Generall Assemblie at St Androis 1642) to give presentatioun to the kirk of Burntiland now vacand by the death of Mr Andro Leslie late minister thair to one of the said number nominat be the Presbytrie whereunto the said commissioners consented. Lykeas the said commissioners signified to the Presbytrie the unanimous desyre of the parochiners of Burntiland to have the Presbytries concurrence for obteining a presentatioun to Mr John Smith upon whom thair hart and eyes wer fixed whilk desyre was graciouslie accepted be the Presbytrie and performed accordinglie and to that effect they think meitt to send some of thair number, viz, Mr John Moncrief and Mr Frederik Carmichell and the Laird of Fingask to meitt at Leslie (with some of the parochiners of Burntiland) upon Moonday nixt to deall with Mr John Smith for that effect. The brethren in respect of the great burden in supplieing the thrie kirks vacand thinks it sufficient to them to supplie the kirks of Skunie and Portmook once in fyftein dayes onlie and the kirk of Burntiland weiklie. The kirk of Markinche is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day and appoynts Mr John Smith to preache thair. Mr Thomas Melvill according to the appoyntment of the Presbytrie delyverit to Mr Harie Wilkie the bonds that was in his custodie concerning the kirk and steipend of the kirk of Weyms. The whole brethren promeises to lend each one of them 500 merks for the publik towards the distressed kirk of Irland. Mr Mungo Law reported that he had dealt with John Russell in Burntiland to confess his fornicatioun with Marion Dewar, bot could not prevail.

Maii 3, 1643.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Markinche holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 3 day Maii be the Moderator and brethren of the Presbytrie . . . . Familie worshipp recomended to these who as yit uses it not and the minister to have weiklie catecising. All persons called at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the minister or elders to compeire and be hard : none compeired.

The sessioun book given to Mr John Smith to be tryed. Compeired Andro Norvell adulterer with Elspett Moreis : resaved his last injunctiouns. Mr John Chalmers last absence excused. Marion Dewar hir bairne to be baptised she produceing ane sponsor. The brethren ar to advyce aganest William Hugsons wyff the nixt day. Mr John Smith reportit that he went to Cuper to the Presbytrie and delyverit his commissioun anent the relief of the captives who took it to be advysed to thair several sessiouns and promeised to report thair anser in wreatt. Mr John Moncrief and Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that they went to Leslie to speak with Mr John Smith according to the act the last day anent his transportatioun to Burntiland who shew his most unwillingness to transport. The names of the heretors and elders of the Parochine of Markinche.

My Lord Generall Leslie of Balgonie
James Law of Burntowne
David Lundie of Couland
Georg Seattone of Carrastown
Patrik Borthwick of Bichtie
Beattone of Balfour
Sr David Auchmowtie of that ilk
David Lindsay of Kirkforther
William Lindsay Pyetstowne
George Balfour of Babirnie
David Landells of Cowle

William Bosuell
William Philp
George Philp
George Stratauchin
William Litilgow
Robert Litiljohn
David Dalrymple
William Melvill
James Wilsone
John Reid
James Pitcairne
Henrie Ramsay
David Browne
David Young
Walter Pittillock
Walter Dalrymple
William Henrisone.

DYSERT, *Maii* 17, 1643.

The whilk day . . . . . The Laird of Fingask in name of the parochiners of Skunie desyred of the Presbytrie that Mr Alexr Moncrief may be authorised to preache at Skunie ordinarlie till he be admitted. The Presbytrie willinglie agrees thairto and interpones thair request with the said Mr Alexander for that effect who willinglie at the request of the Presbytrie is content to preache thair once in the fyftein dayes and the brethren to supplie the place once in the fyftein dayes according to thair act. The Presbytrie appoynts the brethren who have not as yit collectit for the relief of the tuo captives Thomas Piers and James Dancer that they doe it with diligence and ordeanes that comes in *pari passu* in the distributioun of it. Mr Mungo Law reported that tuo Inglish men living in Dysert the one being to mary the others dochter who being contracted for that effect and the first proclamatioun not exped (be the reiders fault) and the men being to saill befoir being thryce proclaimed requyreing that they may be maryed upon tuyse proclamatioun the Presbytrie grants thair request. Anent William Hudgeons wyff in Dysert who hes slandered hirself to have layne with sydrie men, the Presbytie ordeanes that she sall mak hir publik repentance thrie dayes and confess hir fault. Mr Mungo Law and Mr Patrik Gilespie reported that they had gotten grant of the lone of 6000 merks for the brethren uss to be advanced be them in lone for the releif of Irland. Questioun being proponed anent Georg Imrie and Kathren Browne in Ballingrie

whom he had contractit and thairafter refused to mary hir and quatt his pand for that effect whidder she may be maried to ane other man. The Presbytrie thinks she may be maried to ane other. The Presbytrie ordeanes that David Brown and Janet Nicolson be judicialie inhibit to haunt others companie.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Frederik Carmichell to speak to the Laird of Strathenrie that he give satisfactioun for his uncivill behaviour in breakeing the kirk door of Leslie and buryeing of his sister.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 24, 1643.

The whilk day . . . . . The kirk of Kennoquhie is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day, Mr Frederik Carmichell appoynt to preache thair. Compeired Georg Scobbie for his adulterie with Margaret Gray to resave his first injunctiouns who not being willing to resave the sackgown is remitted to the sessioun of Kirkcaldie to be better instructed and thairafter to return to the Presbytrie. A letter resaved from the Moderator and Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie for keipeing of ane fast upon the 11 and 14 dayes of Junii nixt to come. Mr Patrik Gilespie appoyntit to delyver 50 Merks to Arthure Clapon according to ane grant maid thairanent. Mr John Moncrief and Mr Mungo Law ministers and Sr Georg Hamilton ruleing Elder as appoyntit to goe and speak the Erle of Mortone for haisting the planting of the kirk of Portmook.

KENNOQUHIE, *Maii* last

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kennoquhie holden within the paroshe kirk thairof upon the last of Maii be the Ryt Reverend the Moderator Mr Harie Wilkie minister of Weyms and the Ryt Reverend brethren . . . The whilk day also the minister and reider being removed for thair tryells the elders praised God for them and approved them both in the duetifulnes and attendance of thair callings, and also in their lyves and conversatiouns bot declaired that the minister had not meikle examinations whereof he declaired the reason promeiseing ammendment whereof the brethren accepts. The minister returned and the elders removed for thair tryells the minister praised God for them and approved them both in thair callings and in thair lyves bot declaired that thair being some of them who being at variance with their neighbours wer hard to be reconciled and also declaired that the scholemaster (notwithstand there is a modified means appoynted to him) yit hes no present maintenance bot that whilk is taken out of the box. The heretors promeises that after thair controversies be settled they sall with mutual consent tak another better courss for paying the scholemaster that the poore folks shalbe no losers.

The whole Heretors present, viz, the Lairds of Balfour, Auchtermairnie, Kinglessie, Kilmucks, Blaikhall, Treaton who taks upon him to anser for the Clerk Register and Auchtermairnie for Burntown, Robert Sibbald &c ar content that they sall put all thair kirk seatts to the kirk door (provydeing they be put all to the door) and submitts the placeing of them of new againe to ane committie to be direct be the Presbytrie for that effect.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncrief, Mr Frederik Carmichel, and Mr John Smith, and Mr Mungo Law thair commissioners for that effect to meitt at Kennoquhie upon the last Thursday of Julii with continewatioune of dayes, togither with the Lairds of Fingask, Fynmonth, and Henrie Shanks ruleing elders. Mr John Smith reported that he had visited the sessioun book of Markinche and fund it orderlie proceided bot overschortlie sett down.

The sessioun book of Kennoquhie committed to Mr Frederik Carmichell to be tryed. The kirk of Dysert is appoyntit to be visited the nixt day and Mr Harie Wilkie to preache thair in respect of Mr Thomas Hoggs infirmitie alledgit be himself whose place it is to preache.

The generall fast is appoyntit to be intimate the nixt Sabbath.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of the parochine of Kennoquhie:—Beatton of Balfour, John Lundie of Auchtermairnie, James Pitcairne of Treaton, David Balfour, portioner, Lalethen; James Archbald of Blakhall, Henrie Landles of Kilmucks; James Roger of Balbreikie; Andro Balfour in Lalethen; Henrie Smith in Auchtermairnie; Alexr Wilkie in Drumaird; Thomas Kilgour in Bankirk; John Philp in Treaton; Georg Walker in Wester Newtone; William Wilson in Kingsmilne; Georg Melvill in Dooneface; James Dewar in Burnes; Robert Sibbald in Kennoquhie; Walter Wilkie, thair; James Wilkie, John Wilkie, Stephen Wilkie, William Millar, Thomas Cunningham, Robert Ramsay, John Melvill.

DYSERT, *Junii* 7.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Dysert holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be the Moderator and remaineing brethren . . . . The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr William Nairne to persew for his gleib and that befoir the end of the sessioun. The Presbytrie appoynts the meitting at Kirkcaldie this day fyftein dayes for chuseing thair commissioners to the Generall Assemblie. Compeired Barbara Dryburgh, adultress with David Henrieson, who resaved hir last injunctiouns. Mr Patrik Gilespie is appoyntit to visit the sessioun book of Dysert.

The names of the Heretors and Elders of Dysert:—My Lord Sinclair, Sr Georg Hamiltoun of Blaikburne, David Symson of Monturpie, John Gay. Alexander Symson, David Crystie—Baillies. William Symson of Feddinch, Mr James Moneypennie, Thomas Richardson, William Symson, Duncan Weyms, William Given, Andro Rainie, Alexander Crystie, James Guthrie, Andro Johnsone David Sibbald, Georg Gay, James Law, Georg Lundie, Crispinion Swyne, Archbald Robertson, Robert Corsall, George Hart, Archbald Halkhead, John Mackie, Robert Lessles, Patrik Stirk, John Scott.

For Pethhead—David Todd, Andro Fluiker, John Fluiker, Thomas Cock, William Melvill.

Landward—David Dowie, James Thomson.

DYSERT, *Julii* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Mungo Law, Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr Patrik Gilespie be pluralitie of voyces wer chosen commissioners to the Generall

Assemblie to be holden at Edr August 2 and My Lord Elcho chosen ruleing elder who ar appoyntit to meitt preciselie this day fyftein dayes to accept and give thair oaths of fidelitie. Compeired James Mitchell in Stoniehill giving in ane supplicatioun for retaineing of ane woman servand with whom he is suspect of fornicatioun. The Presbytrie remitts him to the sessioun of Kingorne (in whilk parochine he remaines) in respect he comes heir *per saltum* and advyses the minister to discharge him that womans companie.

Sr William Douglas of Kirkness presented ane presentatioun from the Kings Matie to the kirk of Portmook in favour of Mr Georg Ogilbie. The Presbytrie accepts thairof and admitts him presentlie for his tryells, viz, to handel the Cowmonhead *De Perseverantia Sanctorum* this day fyftein dayes and to be tryed in his Hebrew and Greik this day eight dayes. The whilk day the Laird of Fingask presented ane presentatioun to the Kirk of Skunie in favours of Mr Alexr Moncrief.

The Presbytrie admitts thairof and admitts him to his tryells viz. to add to the exercise the nixt day. Ordeanes the brethren to bring thair contributiouns for the captives in Argier the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Ogilvie gave in his *Theses* who is to handel the Cowmonhead *De Perseverantia Sanctorum* the nixt day in Latin and gave tryell of his Hebreu, viz, Hosea 12. Item of his Greik, Hebrewes 12. Item Jud and was approven on thir poynts of his tryells.

The Presbytrie allows Mr Harie Wilkie to sett ane tak to my Lord Elcho of the teynds of Methill as Mr Georg Gilespie his predecessor befoir had done. The Presbytrie of St Androis appoyntit to be dealt with for sending back Mr Walter Lawmonth heir to satisfie for his fornicatioun committed with Janet Miller. Mr David Bennett declaireing himself that he is not to keip his Bursers place any longer then this year provydeing that he sallbe paid fullie for this year the Presbytrie ar content and presentlie admitts Mr Alexr Wedderburn sonne to Mr James Wedderburne minister at Auchtermunsie in the Presbytrie of Cuper to the place ay and while they have one of thair owne of a neirer relatioun to them. The captives rememberit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Julii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Mungo Law, Mr Patrik Gilespie commissioners chosen for the Generall Assemblie ministers and My Lord Elcho ruleing elder acceptit thair commissiouns and gave thair oath of fidelitie. Mr Georg Ogilvie handled the Cowmonhead prescribed to him in Latin Text Jerm 32, 4, 1. Epist John 39, and susteaned disputations thereupon and was approven in this part of his tryells. He is appoyntit to exercise the nixt day and to add and to distinguish the tuo places of exerciser and adder. Leslie contributioun to the captives 20 Merks. Item Auchterdirran 27 lbs 16 sh. Item Ballingrie 8 lbs 12 sh. Item Burntisland 80 lbs 16 sh, all resaved be the Moderator.

DYSERT, *August* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Smith, Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Mungo Law, declaired thair diligence anent the placeing of the seatts in the kirk of Kennoquhie whilk they gave in in writt whilk is ordeaned to be registrat in the Presbytrie book. Compeired Elspett Lumsden, adultress with Willliam Cambell and relapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctiouns.

Compeired Margaret Galloway trelapse in fornicatioun and resaved hir last injunctiouns. Sr James Melvill of Hallhill presented ane presentatioun from the Kings Matie in favours of Mr John Smith to the kirk of Burntiland whereof the Presbytrie accepts. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr John Smith present minister at Leslie and haill parochiners of Leslie to be waraned publiklie at the kirk door of Leslie upon Sonday nixt that if ayther he or they have anything to object aganest the transportatioun of the said Mr John Smith from the kirk of Leslie to the kirk of Burntiland that they compeir befoir the Presbytrie the nixt day and be hard.

AT KENOQUHIE, the 23 day of Julii, 1643—The whilk day Mr John Moncreif, Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Mungo Law, Mr John Smith, ministers—the Laird of Fingask, Commissioners, appoynted be the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie to place the seatts of the kirk of Kennoquhie upon the submissioun of the heretors thair to the Presbytrie at the visitatioun of the said kirk as the act of thair commissioun more at length bears being met after heireing of the heretors present, viz, the Laird of Balfour, the Laird of Auchtermairnie, the Laird of Burnton, Kilmucks, Babbreikie, D. Balfour, James Pitcairne for his owne interest and takeing upon him for the Clerk Register, William Miller, William Wilkie, Alexr Sibbald, James Wilkie, Robert Sibbald and serious consideratioun of everie particular have agreed and appoynted the seatts to be placed as after follows—*In primis* William Miller his dask to stand where it stands the foot gang being removed. Nixt befoir ane rowme of that samyne length and breidth for Walter Wilkie and his brother Robert Wilkie ; befoir that dask ane rowme for Alexander Sibbald and James Wilkie of the samyne length and breidth ; tuo rowmes for the Laird of Blackhall of the length and breidth of the former. Beeast the pulpett a rowme the length and breidth of My Lord of Durie his dask for Robert Sibbald standing south and north. Nixt beeast that tuo rowmes of the samyne length and breidth for David Balfour. Beeast that one rowme for my Lord of Durie behind his owne dask provydeing he cut the back of his owne seatt he hes alreadie as laigh as the foir face that it be no hindrance of the sight of these that ar beeast him ; then beeast that tuo rowmes for the Lairds of Treiton of that same length and breidth ; then beeast that to the east gavill thrie rowmes for Burntone of that samyne length and breidth, and so the whole rest of the gavil for the Laird of Auchtermairnie, that reserveing ane cowmone entrie for them both. Then beeast the pillar of the south wall a rowme for Bankirk with ane footgang. Bewest that on the south syde tuo rowmes for Babbreikie. Bewest the east durr Robert Durie his dask to be sett closs to the wall reserveing entrie to the Laird of

Balfour his dask at both as it is for the present; then bewest that Westernewtones dask to be sett back to the wall betuein Balfoures and Kilmures his dask and for more commodious placeing thairof Kilmures seatt to be removed westward ane foote and the seatt upon the rainge to be removed that the seatts being thus sett the communioun tabells may goe along through the bodie of the kirk and for makeing way for the placeing of seatts as is afoirsaid ordeanes the minister to remove the communioun tables.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr J. Moncreif.
M. F. Carmichaell.
Mr Mungo Law.
Mr J. Smith.

Kirkcaldie, *August* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The precept direct for sowmoning the parochiners of Leslie and Mr John Smith present minister thair to compeire befoir the Presbytrie this day to object aganest the transportatioun of the said Mr John to Burntiland returned indorsat.

Compeired Andro Watson and Robert Richardson Baillies of Burntiland Georg, Gairdens, John Bosuell, David Gourlay, Alexr Dick, Richard Ross, William Cuper, Mr John Irving with many others for the towne of Burntiland, the Lairds of Hallhill and Robert Gead for the parochine craveing of the Presbytrie that they wold transport Mr John Smith from the Kirk of Leslie to the Kirk of Burntiland according to the Kings Maties presentatioun granted to them for that effect who gave in thair reasons at length for the said transportatioun. Compeired also Andro Robertson ruleing elder for the tyme as commissioner for the sessioun of Leslie earnestlie desyreing in the name of the sessioun that the said Mr John may be suffered to remaine at his present charge at Leslie likewayes maine reasons wer produced be the said Mr John schoweing his great unwillingness to be transported whilks all being considered be the Presbytrie and weighed in the ballance of equitie with the reasons of Burnitland the whole Presbytrte efter due deliberatioun did unanimouslie ordeane Mr John to be transported from Leslie to Burntiland with all convenient diligence.

Compeired Kathren Brown adultress with Duncan Dancer: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired Georg Scobbie adulterer with Margrt Gray which he confesses: resaved his first injunctiouns. The Presbytie having approven Mr Georg Ogilbie upon all the poynts of his tryells appoynts his edict to be servit the nixt sabbath and he to be resaved minister at the kirk of Portmook upon Wednesday the 13 day of September nixt to come and Mr Harie Wilkie to preache thair the said dyet. The Presbytrie haveing hard syndrie and divers presumptiouns of witchcraft aganest Kathren Chrystie in Dysert thinks she ought to be apprehendit.

Dysert, *September* 6.

The whilk day the edict served at Portmook for resaveing of Mr Georg Ogilbie

was returned indorsat so the brethren appoynts this day eight dayes for his admisioun. A letter being sent from the Presbytrie of Dunfermeline craveing that John Davidson in Finnatie in the paroshe of Portmook may be sent to the sessioun of Inverkeithing for declairing what he knows of Patrik Pearson who is accused of witchcraft the Presbytrie ordeanes Mr Georg Ogilvie to causs the said John to repaire to the sessioun of Inverkeithing for that effect the nixt Sabbath. Compeired Alison Anderson trelapse in adulterie: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Agnes Hutcheon compeiring deponed that she hard Cristian Cristie in Kirkcaldie bann Elspett Hutchen tuyse and say the devill mak hir als daft as ever Quhisill Quhigg was both befoir and after hir mariage. The said Christian Crystie compeiring denyed the samyne.

The Presbytrie upon this consideratioun and other things hard be them aganest the said Cristian thinks she may be apprehendit and put to ane tryell bot thinks hir takeing away may be deferred till further tryell at the ministers discretioun as also the lyk of the woman of Dysert.

PORTMOOK, *September* 13.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie being convened at the said kirk the sermon being delyverit be Mr Harie Wilkie, Moderator, Text 2 Epist. Tim. 2. 15. Mr Georg Ogilvie was resaved minister of the said kirk and was most gladlie resaved be the whole parochiners with mutual oaths of fidelitie and obedience. A letter being resaved from the Chancellor and Commissioners of estaits to thair ministers for furnishing everie one of them a man with furintour for warr was verie hartlie acceptit be the brethren who promeises thair diligence thairanent.

Also a letter sent from My Lord Lindesay anent the removeing of Mr John Smith from Leslie to Burntiland schawing his contentment thairanent for the weill of the publick. Item a letter to make publicatioun of the generall meitting of shire the first Tysday of October whereanent the Presbytrie promeises thair diligence. Ordeanes the parochiners of Leslie to compeire the nixt day to consent to a list to be nominate for a minister to them. The brethren ar admonished to bring thair contributiouns with them the nixt day for the captive of Argier.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 14.

The whilk day Mr Alexr Moncrief taught his popular sermon, Text Phillip 2, 12 13, doctrin censured and allowed and was approven on this poynt of his tryells who was also tryed in his Hebrew and Greik wherein he gave the brethren great contentment as also being tryed in his questiouns he gave the brethren satisfactioun and was approven and his edict ordeaned to be servit the nixt Sabbath to be resaved upon Tysday September 26. Mr John Smith is appoyntit to preache at Skunie at the resaveing of Mr Alexr Moncreif.

DYSERT, *September* 20.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the absence of the maker and adder. 28 lbs was resaved be Mr James Miller from Thomas Melvill for the con-

tributioun of the kirk of Kinglessie for the captives. Edict returned from Skunnie served and indorsat, none of the parochiners of Skunie compeired to object. 7 lbs 10 sh payit be Mr Thomas Melvill to Mr Frederik Carmichell as his part of the expenses of the commissioners delegate to attend the parliament. The Presbytrie continews to nominate the list for Leslie till Tysday nixt at the desyre of the Erle of Rothess. The Laird of Bogie reportit that the committie of the shyre appoynted be Conventioun of the estaites haveing convened at Cuper had appoynted a commissioner in everie parochine of the shire viz—the laird of Bogie for the landwart of Kirkcaldie, and John Williamsone for the Burgh, David Bosuell for the landwart of Kingorne, Henrie Shanks for the towne, Sr James Melvill for the landwart of Burntiland, Robert Richardsone for the towne, the Laird of Halyairds for Auchtertule, Mr Andro Moncreif for Auchterdirran, the Laird of Fynnmonth for Kinglessie, the Lairds of Arnett and Kirkness for the parochines of Ballingrie, Portmook, and Leslie, Sr David Auchmowtie for Markinche, James Pitcairne of Treaton for Kennoquhie, the Laird of Fingask for Skunie, My Lord Elcho for Weyms, Sr Georg Hamilton or James Weyms for the landwart of Dysert, David Crystie for the towne, for giveing up (with the concurrence of the ministers of the severall paroshes) the number and names of all the sensible men in thair parochines and that the commissioners of everie parochine be at Falkland upon Moonday nixt the 25 of this instant to give in the report of thair diligence there. The Presbytrie desyred the ministers of the severall paroshes to concurr for the effect foirsaid.

SKUNNIE, *September* 26.

The whilk day after sermone delyverit be Mr John Smith, Mr Alexander Moncreif was resaved minister at the said kirk of Skunie with great contentment who promeised and swoir fidelitie in his calling and the people obedience. Anent the mater of the nominating a list for the kirk of Leslie, Mr John Smith reported that the friends of the Erle of Rothess did earnestlie crave one dayes continuance who also himself did humblie crave the samyne without further delay, whilk was grantit to him. The brethren of the Presbytrie according to the laudable custome of our kirk being removed for thair tryells befoir the Provincial wer fownd approven onlie Mr Robert Bruce exhorted to be more diligent in his calling and purposes to visit his kirk schortlie, the said Mr Robert craves the said visitatioun.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The edict from Burntiland returned indorsat. All the people of Burntiland called upon at the kirk durr that had anything to object aganest Mr John Smiths entrie to Burntiland to compeire and be hard: none compeired, wherefoir the brethren resolves to resave the said Mr John the nixt day minister of Burntiland. Mr John Moncreif declaired that he had ane hundreth merks for the captives. Auchtertule 19 merks.

October 18, 1643.

The whilk day the Presbytrie meitting at Burntiland they resave Mr John Smith minister of the said kirk. Mr John Moncreif preached the said day, Text Coll. 1, 29. The list to be nominat for Leslie to be continewed for thrie weiks with certificatioun that if they use no diligence betwixt and then the Presbytrie will proceid to the nominateing of the said list, and ordeanes My Lord Rothess to be advertysed thairof. Intimatioun to be maid the nixt Sabbath anent the reiding and explaineing of the Covenant and the Sabbath thairafter to be solemnlie read and subscryvit be all persons requested and the said day a solemn fast to be keipt thairanent for maintenance of libertie and religioun betwixt the 3 kingdoms. Compeired Elspett Hutton trelapse in fornicatioun : ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

Kirkcaldie, *October* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren declaired they had read and explained the Covenant whilk they ar to causs to be subscryvit the nixt Sabbath as a letter from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie bears—A copie also of the Covenant being sent from them to the brethren to be subscryvit be them.

Ordeanes the collectiouns for the seven persons recommendit be the Synod, viz Mistres Margrt Stewart, Janet Russell and hir 7 bairnes, Patrik Pennycuik, David Welshe, Mr Claud Hamilton, Tempest Holmes, Isobell Beattone to be exped aganest the nixt day and delyverit to Mr John Smith. Mr Alexr Moncrief reports that he hes collectit 51 lbs 5 sh for the captives deteined be the Turks in Argier whilk he delyverit to Mr Harie Wilkie, Moderator. Agnes Leslie sister to Umqll Mr Andro Leslie referred to the particular kirks of the Presbytrie for support.

Kirkcaldie, *November* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren reported that the Covenant was sworne and subscryvit in thair kirks be men and sworne onlie be women. Mr John Chalmers delyverit 16 merks, Kinglessie 18 lbs 12 sh, Portmook 20 merks, Dysert 50 Merks, Ballingrie 9 merks, 2 sh and 8d., Auchtertule 10 merks 10d less, Kingorne 50 merks, Weyms 40 merks, Kirkcaldie 40 lbs, Skunnie 20 lbs, Kennoquhie 12 lbs, Markinche 30 lbs for the 7 persons recommendit be the Synod, also Leslie delyverit 20 lbs, Burntiland 20 merks. Compeired Duncan Done adulterer with Kathren Browne : resaved his first injunctiouns. It is ordeaned that people who ar delate or suspect of witchcraft if they flie censure sallbe proceided aganest and processed be the kirk. It is ordeaned that all ministers at thair entrie heirafter sall pay a dollar to the Clerk or transportit in Presbytrie.

Dysert, *November* 8, 1643.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Georg Ogilvie payit each of them a dollar to the Clerk according to the act thairanent and Mr Thomas Melvill payit his Clerk fie,

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the list to be nominat for the kirk at Leslie the brethren nominats Mr Thomas Black, Mr John Chalmer, Mr Georg Leslie, Mr Harie Rymour, Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr Thomas Melvill, whereunto the ruleing elder for Leslie being present most willinglie consented.

The whilk day the Covenant was subscryvit be the brethren and ruleing elders of the Presbytrie be themselfs. Compeired David Browne in the parochine of Auchterdirran adulterer with Janet Nicolson : resaved his last injunctiouns.

Mr John Smith produced ane discharge upon the resait of the moneyes whilk wer collectit for the relief of these 7 persons recommendit be the Synod subscryvit be Mr Robert Traill. Collectit for Agnes Leslie be Auchterdirran 2 merks, be the Weyms a dollar, Kingorne, a dollar, Burntiland a dollar, Leslie 36 sh, Auchtertule 30 sh, Skunie a dollar.

DYSERT, *November* 22.

The whilk day a letter was resaved from the committie for the Generall Assemblie for takeing order that all persons sall subscryve the Covenant. The brethren ar appoyntit to trie thair subscriptiouns be thair communioun rolls be compareing them togither. Item another letter resaved for takeing order that all Inglishemen in this countrie sall subscryve the Covenant. The brethren appoynts the communioun rolls to be brought the nixt day. Becauss the sinne of curseing is verie ryff in this age it is ordeaned that these who curses thair neighbours in tyme comeing sall mak thair publick repentance befoir the pulpett and thairafter to be put to the Cokstoole or in the joggs or elss redeime themselfs be payment of 10 lbs to the poore and this act to be observit universallie throughout the whole Presbytrie in tyme comeing.

Mr Frederik Carmichell reportit that he had intimate the list for Leslie to the whole parochiners who declaired thair great acceptance of the samyne and that they had maid chose of Mr Georg Leslie as the man they settled upon desyreing the Presbytrie to concurr with them for obteining of him whilk the ruleing elder for Leslie being present affirmed to be so. Mr Frederik Carmichell compleining upon James Law of Burntowne the Presbytrie gives warrand to causs sowmon him aganest the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . The communion rolls of the severall paroshes being brought and compared with the subscriptiouns of the Covenant the whole brethren reported that so farr as they knew thair was none who refused to subscryve. The parsone of Dysert in respect of his age and infirmitie craveing exemption from travelling abroad to preache the Presbytrie yields to his desyre *pro tempore*.

The whilk day also the Presbytrie ordeanes these of thair brethren who ar commissioners for the Generall Assemblie to deall with the Presbytrie of Edr for permitting of Mr Georg Leslie to transport from the Cannongaitt to Leslie as also to deall with the said Mr Georg and the Erle of Rothess friends for the effect foirsaid according to ane act to be maid thairanent. Compeired James Law of

Burntown for ansering to the complaint given in aganest him be Mr Frederik Carmichell who craved a copie of the claime to anser to (Mr John Chalmer, Moderator, in respect of his neir relatioun to Mr Frederik Carmichell desyred that another might be Moderator in that mater whilk the Presbytrie performed accordinglie and appoynted Mr John Moncreif to moderate *hac vice.*) The Presbytrie grants the copie of the claim to be given to the Laird of Burntown to anser to this day fyftein dayes and the claim to be insert heirafter.

DYSERT, *December* 6.

The whilk day . . . . Anent the schorting of Duncans Dons repentance, being goeing with the armie, continewed to the nixt day. Andro Aytone being sowmonit, called : compeired not : is appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2 for neglecting to baptise his bairne. 24 sh resaved from Mr Josua Meldrom for Mr James Mirk. Item half a dollar from Mr John Chalmer, 6 merks resaved from Mr John Chalmer for the Burser, also eight merks from Kinglessie. Item 6 merks from Skunie.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Isobell Aikine in the congregatioun of Kinglessie trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

A fast appoyntit to be keipt to be intimate. James Law of Burntown being sowmonit to anser to the claime given in aganest him be Mr Frederik Carmichell called, compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day. Of whilk claime the tenor follows—Unto your godlie W. Moderator and remanent brethren of the Presbytrie humblie meins and complains I, Mr Frederik Carmichell, Minister at Markinche upon James Law of Burntowne, that (1) whereas the said James in presence of the sessioun being blaspheming Gods name and it being told him that it was Gods day, Gods house, Gods work replyed, be God he wold not be commanded be me, (2) He being absent from the sessioun 24 weiks altogither being demandit the reason of his absence : ansered, he wold give none. (3) For devyding betwixt me and the Elders saying that I maid ciphers of them and ledd horss of them. (4) For saying in the sessioun that some of the Elders told him they durst not speak in the sessioun for mee whilk being put to tryell it is cleired that the Elders said he durst not speak for him who had denyed voyceing to the Elders in chuseing of the Reider and Scholemaster, (5, For affirmeing Mr Andro Lawmonth als honest, als faithfull, als conscientious a Minister as was in Fyff, and being admonished that hee was ane Covenanter and the other not, tuyse and thryse affirmed in the sessioun he wold mainteyne that he had spoken though it be knowen that Mr Andro his entrie was not honest it being over the bellies of the whole paroshiners, his caryage in his ministrie corrupt, practiseing the whole tyme the articles of Perth, and his cloise weill known to all what it was wherefoir I beseech your godlie W. to tak thir things to your serious consideratioun and to deall thairin as your W. will think expedient.

DYSERT, *December* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . James Law of Burnetown being called upon to anser to the claime given in aganest him be Mr Frederik Carmichell compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day. The Erle of Dalhousie having sent ane earnest letter to the Presbytrie desyreing that he might have one of thair number to be preacher to his regiment, the Presbytrie grants his desyre and appoynts Mr Patrik Gilespie to be the man and to be relieved according to the order of relief and the Presbytrie to supplie his place till his return. Mr Andro Leslies relict desyreing that the brethren of the Presbytrie wold deall with the Erle of Dunfermline to pay hir that whilk is due to hir the Presbytrie referrs thair anser to the nixt day till they know of My Lords dyett. Mr James Bannerman ane Irish minister craveing support, the brethren promeises to help him. 16 merks resaved from Skunnie for Mart Spens, a reall of 8 for Mr James Mirk, 50 Merks resaved from Markinche for the captives. Mr William Nairne having represented to the Presbytrie a reference from the sessioun of Dysert for advyse and resolutioun whidder the frie confessiones of witches maid several dayes of thair own accord without any compulsioun though thairafter they resile from the samyne should have faith or no. The Presbytrie did all in one voyce resolve that the first confessioun should stand notwithstanding of thairafter passing from the samyne and did ordeane this thair advyse and resolutioun to be registrat for ane rule in lyk caises in tyme comeing.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren consents to intermeitt the exercise the nixt day be reason be outputting of thair men to the sowth and the day thairafter in respect of preparatioun in keiping of the fast.

Mr Frederik Carmichell his claime bein read and considered and James Law of Burntown his ansers thairto given in in writt be himself thair present the Presbytrie finds the (1) article denyed be the said James Law and thairfoir referrs the samyne to Mr Frederiks probatioun, as for the 2 poynt the Presbytrie finds that Mr Frederik did nothing bot what he ought to have done be his calling, as for the 3 poynt they find it not anserit as naither the 4 and thairfoir referrs to Mr Fredriks probatioun as also the last poynt not anserit. James Law sowmonit *apud acta* to heir the said claime proven aganest him in the poynts thairof this day thrie weiks in Dysert who anserit he had other things adoe and could not attend upon the humours of men nor waite upon the pryde of particular men and appealed from the Presbytrie to the nixt Provincial Assemblie for reasons to be given in be him thair whereupon he craved instruments in the Clerks hands. The Presbytrie finding no reason in his appellatioun rejects the samyne and sowmonds him as affoir. The copie of his ansers to the claime being ordeaned to be registrat follows.

Ansers for James Law of Burntown to the complaint given in aganest him be Mr Frederik Carmichell minister at Markinche befoir the Reverend Ministers and brethren of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

First, whereas it is alledgit be the said Mr Fred that I blasphemed Gods name

in swearing in the presence of the sessioun and being rebukit for it and told it was Gods day, Gods houss, and Gods work we wer about, and that my replie was that I wold not be commandit be the said Mr Frederik—it is anserit I wold requyre the said Mr Fred to condesend upon the tyme and occasioun of the said blashemeing which blasphemie I denie and be Gods grace sall shune while I live bot if any rash oath hes escaped me the time the said Mr Fred alledges, whilk trulie hes not be my knowledge and nowayes grantit be me, it hes bein out of passioune and infirmitie being moved, and being proved I am content to underlie your W. censure and sall crave God pardon for it and for my inumerable moe trespasses. And whereas it is alledgit in my swearing which I still denie I was commandit be the said Mr Frederik to silence, thair being some other purpose among us, I anserit that I wold not be commandit be him in anything but maters of my salvatioun, others being without the compass of his calling. Whereas I am challengit for not frequenting the meitings of sessioun bot absented myself therefra be the space of 24 weiks, altogither it is true that upon some lawfull occasiouns which in due time I am able to prove I was necessitate though aganest my will to be absent, yit when tyme permitted me and whilk other preferred to my other business if not absolute necessar I keipt the said meittings bot being present the said Mr Fred affirmed the occasionn of my comeing was to kindle the fyre of the kill and fyre it, wherein I requyred the said Mr Fred to be particular, and whereunto I sall anser and being convinced I sallbe lyable to your W. censure. As for the rest of the claime and wherein I am taxed I denie it altogither. As for Mr Andro Lawmonth he was admitted to the Ministrie of Markinche befoir my tyme thair, and during his abod thair was repute to be the best to whom he was known, ane honest man both in lyff and doctrin.

Mr John Smith reportit that he had dealt with the Presbytrie of Edr for lowseing of Mr Georg Leslie that he might transport himself from the Cannongaitt to Leslie who nowayes would deall thairto who also reported that the Erle of Rothess his friends and whole paroshiners had sett thair minds upon Mr Harie Rymour. (James Brown ruleing Elder and commissioner for Leslie reported that it was so, and that he was come down for that effect to desyre the Presbytrie to concur with them in dealing with the said Mr Harie). The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Smith to repair to the said Mr Harie to deall with him in thair names for the effect foirsaid. Also the Presbytrie appoynts the said Mr John Smith and Mr Thomas Melvill to goe and deall with the Erle of Dunfermeline concerning Mr Andro Leslies relict. The Presbytrie at the desyre of my Lord Generall, the commissioners of estaits and Generall Assemblie remitts Mr John Smith to repair towards the armie to be preacher to his Excellence and gives him thair calling thairto. The fast to be intimate the nixt Sabbath. Compeired Margaret Grey adultress with Georg Scobbie: resaved hir first injunctiouns. David Henderson, adulter to be resaved.

Weyms, Dysert, Kingorne gave each one a dollar for Mr James Bannerman, also Auchtertnle 12 sh, also Markinche a dollar, Kirkcaldie 4 dollars, Auchterdirran 20 sh.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 11.

The whilk day Mr Mungo Law having resaved ane sowmons from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie sowmoning the said Mr Mungo to transport himself from Dysert to Edr the brethren takeing the said mater to thair serious consideratioun (being the speciall reason of thair meitting) nominats and appoynts Mr John Moncrief, Mr John Chalmer, Moderator, and Mr James Symeson, or any of them to repair to Edr thair to deall with the said commissioners for his abydeing at Dysert the reasons thairof to be drawn up be the saids persons and the commissioners of thair number for the Generall Assemblie.

A letter also was sent from My Lord Generall Leslie for the hasteing of Mr John Smith to the armie whilk was grantit and the said Mr John craveing the Presbytries warrand for his calling it was also grantit to him as also Mr Patrik Gilespie craveing the lyk it was also grantit who ar to repair towards the armie after the nixt Sabbath. Reference from the sessioun of Dysert anent Duncan Done and Kathren Brown relapse in adulterie after thair resaveing and in bedd togither: ordeanes them to mak thair repentance *de novo*. The whilk day also the Presbytrie haveing hard and sein syndrie and dyvers presumptiouns of witchcraft aganest Isobell Johnson in Burntiland, thinks she may be apprehendit and tryed for the samyne notwithstanding the absence of the Minister. Anent the commissioun given to Mr John Smith for requyreing Mr Harie Rymour to be minister at Leslie the said Mr John reported a letter from Mr Colin Adam in name of the Presbytrie of St Androis, showing that the said Mr Harie had accepted of the calling to Carnbie alreadie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 24.

The whilk day Mr Robert Bruce exercised, Mr Georg Ogilvie added: doctrin censured and allowed bot thinks that the first speaker might have spoken more upon such a text. Anent the supplie of Kirkcaldie upon the tuo weik dayes it is appoyntit that he who preaches at Leslie upon the Sabbath sall preache in Kirkcaldie upon the Tysday thairafter and that brother who preaches at Burntiland sall preache in Kirkcaldie upon the Friday thairafter. A letter being sent from the Erle of Dunfermeline requyring a minister heir for his regiment the brethren send thair excuse.

The whilk day the Laird of Bogie desyred the brethren that these thair men who ar designit to goe to the warr may be exped: the brethren promeises thair diligence. Ordeanes the Clerk to direct sowmons for sowmoning James Law of Burntown to compeire befoir the Presbytrie to heir witnesses resaved for proveing of the claime given in be Mr Frederik Carmichell aganest him with certificatioun that if he compeire not the brethren will proceid in the said mater. A letter sent from Cuper for trying of Bessie Cuper and Jean Buchan who ar fledd from thence for witchcraft the brethren promeises to concurr for trying of them.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren in respect of the paucitie of thair number

and many kirks to supplie resolves to meitt onlie once in fyftein dayes till the 1 of Appryle and maks choiyse of the Acts of the Appostles to be the grownd of thair exercise nixt . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncrief and Mr Frederik Carmichell ministers and the Laird of Bogie to goe to the baillies of Dysert for dealling with them to hold hand to the watching of thair witches and tryeing of them as also for giving satisfactioun to the sessioun for the moneyes borrowed be them thairfrom. Anent the claime persued be Mr Frederik Carmichell aganest James Law of Burntowne witnesses admitted and sworne proved as follows:—Sr David Auchoutie of that Ilk deponed the first poynt according to the claime. Item the second poynt cleirlie also the 5 poynt according to the claime. Georg Balfour of Babirnie admitted and sworn proved the 1, 2, 3, and last poynts according to the claime. Seaton of Carrestowne deponed in all poynts according to the claime. David Young admitted and sworne deponed the 4 and last poynts according to the claime. Walter Miller admitted and sworne deponed according to the claime in the 2 and last poynts cleirlie. Peiter Borthwicks of Bightie proved the 2, 3, 4, and last according to the claime.

The brethren of the Presbytrie finding the claime cleirlie proven ordeans the Laird of Burntown to be sowmonit to appear this day fyftein dayes in Kirkcaldie to heir the decreit given out aganest him with certificatioun that if he compeir not they will proceid to thair sentence aganest him. Sr John Weyms of Bogie proponed to the Presbytrie for thair help and concurrence for disjoynding his lands of Wester Bogie from the Paroshine of Dysert to the Parosh of Kirkcaldie to whilk parosh the said lands ar most neir and ewest.

The Presbytrie appoynts John Moncreif and Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr Robert Aytone of Inchdairnie to trye the said bownds and to mak thair report accordinglie. Anent the moneyes collectit for the captives in Argeir it is ordeaned that they be not delyvered till it be known what the Kirkcaldie collectioun come to that it may be equallie divided with the rest. The brethren appoynts the excommunicatioun of Janet Rankyne and Lillias Baxter who ar fledd for witchcraft to be intimate in all the kirks. Item the names of Bessie Cuper and Jean Buchan who ar fledd to be intimate that they may be tryed and apprehended.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 14.

The whilk day . . . . The Commissioners direct to the Baillies of Dysert reported that the Baillies promeise diligence both in attending to thair witches and holding hand to thair tryells, as also to give band for the poore folks moneyes. The whilk day also the commissioners who wer appoyntit to visit the lands of Wester Bogie reported that they had sein and considered the samyne and fand them to be nearest and most ewest to the kirk of Kirkcaldie. The Presbytrie approves the samyne and promeises to concur with him for that effect for disjoyning be reason of the distance from Dysert and nearness to Kirkcaldie. James Law of Burntown being sowmonit compeired anent the claime given in be Mr Frederik Carmichell aganest him. The Presbytrie finding the samyne cleirlie proven aganest him not-

withstanding the particulars contained thairin doe deserve a more severe censure yit the said brethren desyrous to gain (if it may be) the said James Law of Burntown ordeans him to confess his fault humblie upon his knies before the sessioun of Markinche and crave God pardon for the blasphemeing of his name in such a publik place, after publik admonitioun of his minister sicklyk that he humblie acknowledge his oversight in compareing Mr Andro Lawmonth a man deposed be authoritie of the Generall Assemblie as ane enemie of the National Covenant, and laite reformatioun to the most faithfull ministers in thair callings within the bownds of Fyff, and for the rest of the particulars contained in the said claime, and that betwixt this instant and the fyftein day of March to come.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved for keiping of the fast this day eight dayes: appoyntit to be intimate the nixt day. Mr John Chalmer, Moderator, reported that Mr Harie Wilkie and Georg Ogilvie wer agreed anent all questiouns betwixt them, Mr Georg having given 300 merks for the manss whilk he desyred to be noted in the book whilk was grantit.

KIRKCALDIE, *Mar* 13, 1644.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson is appoyntit to preache at the Synodall Assemblie nixt in respect of Mr John Smiths absence who was past Moderator being now at the armie. The Presbytrie grants that John Heir in Burntiland be contractit and proclaimed, he finding cautioun to satisfie the kirk for his fornicatioun befoir he saile. The Presbytrie appoynts to meitt this day eight dayes at Kirkcaldie, anent the mater betwixt Mr Frederik Carmichell and the Laird of Burntown. 20 lbs resaved from Markinche for the Burser of Theologie. Item 2 merks from Mr John Moreis, Item 20 sh from Ballingrie for James Murray. Mr Andro Pitcairne craveing to enter upon the exercise they appoynt him for his private tryell to handell the 2 last verses of the 2 Chapter of the 1 Epistle of Peiter. Ordeanes Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Harie Moncrief to press the Baillies of Dysert agane to give bond for thair poore folks moneys borrowed be them.

John Hunter and his dochter to be proceided aganest in Ballingrie for breaking the Sabbath and his whoorishe behaviour. 8 lb resaved from Weyms for the Burser. Item 20 sh for James Murray.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that James Law of Burntown had given all satisfactioun to the decreit aganest him whereof the brethren wer verie gleid and weill content and so that process endit. Mr Frederik shewing what he had done to gaine him also. The Presbytrie haveing sein, read, and considered the dittayes and poynts of witchcraft given in aganest Kathren Vallange in Kingorn thinks they ar sufficient to put hir to ane assyse.

DYSERT, *March* 27, 1644.

The whilk day . . . . . The Minister, Baillies, aud Town Counsellors of Dysert in thair own names and in name of the communaltie of the said Burgh gave in ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie, showing that they had unanimouslie set thair minds upon Mr James Wilson, expectant in this Presbytrie to be fellowhelper to Mr William Nairne thair present minister desyreing the brethren to admitt the said Mr James to his tryells that being approven he may be admitted to be fellow-helper in the said ministrie. The brethren finding the place of Dysert vacand be the transportatioun of Mr Mungo Law from the kirk of Dysert to the kirk of Edr to the whilk he is alreadie admitted and resaved minister doe consent and agree to thair supplicatioun with this proviso that they get My Lord Sinclairs consent and concurrence to thair supplicatioun and Sr Georg Hamiltons for the landward paroshe as also that they provyde for him sufficient maintenance and that betwixt this and this day fyftein dayes and appoynts Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr John Moncreif to speak My Lord Sinclair and Sr Georg Hamilton for that effect whilk being done the supplicatioun to be anserit. Mr John Moncreif and Mr Frederik Carmichell ministers, and the Laird of Bogie ruleing elder ar appoynted to speak to the Erle of Rothess for hasteing of the kirk of Leslie. The brethren haveing read and considered the proceis of witchcraft given in aganest Agnes Bennettie, Margaret Cunningham and Margaret Halkhead in Dysert thinks them to be such as deserves to procure a commissioun to put them to ane assyse. The brethren according to the laudable custome of the kirk being removed for thair tryells befoir the Provincial wer all fownd approven.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . The Balllies and Town Counsell of Dysert craveing ane anser to thair supplicatioun for Mr James Wilson, Mr Mungo Law reported that he had spoken to My Lord Sinclair who most willinglie consented to his entrie as also that Sr Georg Hamilton openlie in presence of the sessioun of Dysert agreed thairto, also anent Mr James his maintenance the Baillies and the rest present promeises satisfactioun as befoir. The Presbytrie agrees and accepts of thair offer, and approves Mr James Wilsone his additioun and exercise as a part of his tryells for the kirk of Dysert and for further tryell appoynts him to handell the Cowmonhead *De Formali Causa Justificationis* and to be tryed in the languages this day eight dayes and for his Hebrew assignes to him the 51 psalm and his Greik *ad aperturam libri.* The Erle of Dalhousie, writting ane letter for some brother to relieve Mr Patrik Gilespie from the armie the Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Mr Frederik Carmichell to anser his letter. The same day also Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that the Laird of Bogie and he had spoken to the Erle of Rothess anent the planting of the kirk of Leslie whose anser was that he should with the advyse of his friends hasten the plantatioun of the samyne as also ane letter was sent this day from the Erles governor bearing that whomsoever

the Presbytrie wold be pleased to nominate they wold accept of. The Presbytrie nominates Mr James Symeson to them and ordeanes a letter to be written to the Erle and his friends that they wold writt to him and give him ane calling for that effect. Mr Harie Wilkie reported that he and Mr John Moncreif had spoken the Baillies of Dysert that they wold give band for the moneys borrowed be them from the sessioun whose anser was not satisfactorie. Continewed to the nixt day.

Anent Mr Thomas Hoggs letter for dealeing with the Heretors of Kennoquhie and Markinche anent the chaunge of some parochiners the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Alexander Moncreif to deall with them.

Ruleing Elders nominat to the nixt Assemblie—for Kinglessie the Laird of Caskiebarian, for Markinche the Laird of Burntown, for Skunie James Sibbald, for Weyms the Erle of Weyms, for Dysert Mr James Moneypennie, for Kirkcaldie John Ingles, for Kingorne James Robertsone, for Burntiland Robert Gedd, for Auchtertule John Crawfuird, for Auchterdirran Mr David Scrimgeor, for Ballingrie, for Portmook the Laird of Arnett, younger.

DYSERT, *April* 17.

The whilk day Mr James Wilsone being tryed in his Hebrew viz Psal 51, and in his Greik viz Epist Jud was approven both be the brethren who appoynts him to be tryed in his Catechetique questiouns the nixt day.

Appoynts the Moderator Mr James Symeson to speak to the baillies of Dysert that they give band for the moneyes borrowed be them from the kirk sessioun. Archbald Stirk in Balcurvie compleining upon Mr Thomas Hogg for refuseing baptism to his bairne the Presbytrie ordeanes Mr Thomas Hogg to baptise the samyne in respect of the exchange betwixt him and Markinche. Appoynts the brethren to bring thair collectiouns for Patrik Fleming and Thomas Anderson the nixt day. Compeired Janet Bell trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir last injunctiouns.

The same day Mr Robert Bruce minister at Ballingrie reported that he had sowmonit Jean Hunter 3 privatelie and 3 publiklie who yit had given no obedience. The Presbytrie ordeans him to sowmond hir to heir hirself declaired contumax. Mr Georg Ogilvie payit for the Burser 4 lbs. Item for James Murray 20. Item his Clerk fie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Wilson was tryed in his questiouns and was approven in this poynt of his tryells who also gave in his *Theses*, and is to handell the Cowmonhead the nixt day. The exercise continewed as they wer.

Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Alexander Moncreif reported that they had spoken My Lord of Durie anent the change of some parochiners of the paroshe of Kennoquhie with Markinche who declaired himself content with what was done for the kirks part. A letter resaved from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie for intimating the excommunicatioun of Georg Marquess of Huntlie, Mr James

Kennedie his servitor, Alexander Irwine of Drum, and Robert Irwine his brother, Sr John Gordone of Haddoe, and Thomas Hay his servitor, William Seatone of Schelhim, and William Innes of Tippertie all excommunicate be Mr John Adamson in Edr appoyntit to be intimate in all the kirks. Jean Hunter in Ballingrie being sowmonit literatorie to compeir befoir the Presbytrie called: compeired not: declaired *contumax* and ordeaned to be proceided aganest with excommunicatioun. A letter resaved from the commissioun for the kirk for earnest and serious dealing with God for our armie.

DYSERT, *Maii* 1.

The whilk day Mr James Wilsone handled the Cowmonhead *De Formali Causa Justificationis* who also susteaned disputatiouns thereupon and was approven on this poynt and all the former parts of his tryells who had for Text Epist Phillip 8, 9. The Presbytrie appoynts him to preache his popular sermon the nixt day and assignes him for Text Rom 5, 1. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Joshua Meldrom and Mr Alexander Moncreif to designe Mr Frederik Carmichell his gleib *de novo.* Mr Alexander Moncrief and Mr Harie Wilkie reported that they went to My Lord of Durie and spak to him anent the change of some of the paroshe of Markinche and Kennoquhie which ar most ewest to other kirks who declaired himself content with what was done for the ecclesiastic part bot desyred that he might be hard be the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie ar content to heir him whenever he pleases to come to them.

The Erle of Dunfermeline and the Presbytrie thoirof having sent letters to this Presbytrie for some brother to repair to the armie to releive Mr Walter Bruce the Presbytrie considering that they have so many brethren out alreadie and Dunfermeline so few and Cuper none (of whilk Presbytrie a part of that armie consists) they humblie writt thair excuse. The Presbytrie ar to advyse aganest the nixt day anent expectants to preache for supplying the brethren.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 6.

The whilk day Mr James Wilson preached his popular sermon assinat to him viz. Rom. 5, 1, and was approven on that part of his tryells and in all the former poynts of his tryells whose edict for resaveing of him Minister at Dysert fellow-helper to Mr William Nairne is appoyntit to be servit the nixt Sabbath in Dysert and he to be resaved this day fyftein dayes and appoynts Mr James Symeson, Moderator, to preache the said day.

The said day also resaved ane letter from Edinburgh, for intimateing the excommunicatioun of James, Erle of Montroise, Ludovick, Erle of Crawfuird, Robert, Erle of Nithsdaill, James, Vicount of Boyne, James, Lord Ogilbie, and John, Lord Heres, all excommunicat in Edinburgh.

DYSERT, *Maii* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Edict from Dysert served and indorsat and all people that had anything to object the entrie of Mr James Wilson to the ministrie thair, called to compeire and object: none compeired.

The brethren ar to proceid to his admissioun the day appoynted. Compeired Kathren Lassells, who refuseing to adhere to hir husband is ordeaned to be removed from the bownds where she remains. Compeired William Anderson in Kingorne, who offers himself cautioner to have the bairne, borne in Kingorne, whose father is at the south, to be baptised.

Ordeanes all the ruleing elders to be present the nixt day for chuseing Commissioners to the Generall Assemblie. James Roger, ruleing Elder for Kennoquhie, proponed the questiouns follows—1. What order sall be taken with them that does not communicate: anser to causs them mak thair publik repentance 2, What order sallbe taken with them who alledgit inhabilitie to serve at the tables, and yit thairafter kythed to be otherwayes: anser to be rebuked publiklie with certificatioun as effeirs. 3. What order sallbe taken with them who upon the preparatioun day to the communioun day yoked thair pleugh: anser to causs them mak thair repentance.

DYSERT, *Maii* 22.

The whilk day Mr James Symeson preached who had for Text Jerm x 3, 15. who with the rest of the brethren resaved Mr James Wilson at Dysert, fellow-helper to Mr William Nairne in that Ministrie. Ruleing Elders present—the Lairds of Bogie, Burntown, Blaikburn, Badrigg, Caskybarien, Mr David Scrimgeor, Mr James Moneypenny, James Robertson, John Crawfuird, James Roger. Mr Alexander Moncreif reported that he went to St Androis and spak to the Erle of Rothess and his governor who wer willing to hasten the plantatioun of the kirk of Leslie. The whilk day Mr James Symeson, Mr Frederik Carmichell, and Mr Thomas Melvill wer chosen be the rest of the brethren commissioners to the Generall Assemblie to be holden at Edr and the Laird of Bogie chosen ruleing elder.

Resaved be Mr James Miller from Mr James Craige, 120 lbs for the tuo captives for the parochine of Dysert.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Reasones of a fast to be intimate to be keipt the first Sabbath of Julii and the Thursday thairafter. Anent the anser to the Erle of Dunfermline his letter for a minister to relieve Walter Bruce from the armie, the brethren continewes it to the nixt day. Marie Gibson being recommended be the Generall Assemblie to the charitie of Fyff the brethren promeises to help hir. The Clerk produced ane ticket from James Murray of the resait of the moneyes resaved be him from the kirks of Dysert, Kirkcaldie, Kinglessie, Auchterdirran, Ballingrie, Weyms, Kennoquhie. The rest not payed. A letter resaved from Mr Thomas Hogg with ane reference and process aganest Robert Durie. The brethren ordeanes the said Mr Thomas to proceid aganest him to sentence and to urge him to obey. The petitioun of Archbald Miller his spous and dochter troublit with a universall gutt recommended be the Generall Assemblie of Edr Junii 4 to the charitie of Fyff, sein.

DYSERT, *Junii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . The visitatiouns continewed till after the fast and Parliament. The Erle of Dunfermeline his letter sent to the Presbytrie for a brother to relieve Mr Walter Bruce from the armie the Presbytrie yield to his Lordschipps desyre and ordeanes Mr Joshua Meldrom minister at Auchtertule one of these whom his Ls nominates in his Ls letter to repair thither for that effect who willinglie accepting his calling desyred that his place might be supplied in his absence whilk the Presbytrie promeised to him.

The brethren thinks expedient to writt to Mr Georg Leslie to prepare himself als soon as he can to obey his calling from the Generall Assemblie to repair to Leslie to his charge thair also to writt to the Erle of Dunfermeline the anser to his Lordschipps letter anent the provisioun for a minister to his regiment. Alison Andersone relapse in adulterie having sitten half a year upon the stool of publik repentance is ordeaned to sit a whole year. Anent Robert Durie parochiner of Kennoquhie the Presbytrie continewes in thair former judgement and ordeanes Mr Thomas Hogg his minister to proceid aganest him to sentence and to urge to obey be the censures of the kirk.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The fast to be intimate the nixt Sabbath to be keipt the times foirsaid. Compeired Kathren Thomson in Kingorne quadrelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns.

Mr John Moncreif proponeing what sallbe don to a fugitive come from the armie: anser to causs him mak his publik repentance. The supplicatioun of Cristian Scharp relict of Mr Peter Scharp recommeded be the Generall Assemblie to the Countie of Fyff resaved and allowed. The whilk day also anent the questioun proponed be the ruleing of Burntiland and Mr Robert Bruce minister at Ballingrie for fornicatioun committed be Wm Cuper younger in Burntiland and ane woman in the congregatioun of Ballingrie being committed as is alledgit be them both within the parochine of Burntiland no slander being thair till the bairne was brought forth be the woman in the paroshe of Ballingrie it is thought expedient be the Presbytrie that the man sall satisfie at Burntiland where he duells and where the most scandall is and the woman satisfie in Ballingrie where the most scandall is on hir part and that they divyde the penaltie accordinglie. Anent ane questioun whidder it be lawful or not to demolishe the steiple of Leslie (whilk is ruinous) for reparatioun of the kirk whilk is also ruinous and newlie to be repaired: anser, not, bot let them repair the steiple also seing it is ane old monument. The Presbytrie approve the process of the sessioun of Kennoquhie aganest Robert Durie and ordeanes the minister to proceid aganest him to sentence and to urge him to obey.

DYSERT, *Julii* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren declaired that they had intimate the fast. Anent the supplicatioun of Georg Alison, sailer in Kingorne who haveing contracted ane woman and no slander being of them till immediatelie befoir thair

mariage whilk being refused to them be reason of the said slander; that they may be maried; they finding cautione to doe whatsoever satisfactioun after thair mariage as is incumbent to them now (the man being readie to goe to sea) the Presbytrie grants that they may sit thrie dayes upon the stoole of repentance ayther both togither on the one afternoone and the other a foirnoone and that they may for one of the Sabbaths sit upon the Thursday of the fast as if it was the Sabbath and thairafter to be maried. The Presbytrie considering the great abuse of contracted persons who after thair contract lyes alwayes in the houss togither for restraineing whereof they ordeane that whosoever man in Burrow towns sallbe fand to lye in the houss where he is contracted his pand sallbe declaired presentlie lost, and they to mak thair repentance befoir the pulpett befoir thair mariage.

Anent the steipend of Burntiland for the cropp and year of God Jaj vic fourtie thrie the brethren thinks it apperteins properlie to the relict of Mr Andro Leslie. The whilk day it is ordeaned that anent the supplying of the kirks, Burntiland and Leslie, Skunnie, Weyms, Dysert, Kirkcaldie, Kingorne, Auchtertule, Ballingrie to supplie Burntiland and Mr John Moncrief to begin Mr Josua Meldrom to follow, and the rest of the kirks viz. Portmook, Auchterdirran, Kinglessie, Markinche to supplie Leslie.

Anent the sinne of drunkeness for restraining whereof the Presbytrie thinks meitt to follow the act of the Presbytrie of St Androis. Mr Thomas Melvill gave have a dollar to Mr James Bannerman resaved be himself.

David Nairne being recommended be a committee of the Generall Assemblie to the charitie of Fyff, the brethren accepts of the samyne.

DYSERT, *Julii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . Half a dollar resaved from Skunie for Mr James Bannerman. Item half a dollar for Mr Patrik Anderson resaved be himself. A letter resaved from commissioners at Edr for keiping a solemn thanksgiving for a glorious victorie resaved at our armie in Ingland to be intimate the nixt Sabbath and be keipt the Sabbath thairafter.

Edward Blair, Barbara and Grisell Stewards and Jean Crawfuird all recommended be the Generall Assemblie to the charitie of the province of Fyff the supplicatiouns sein and allowed. Anent some Inglish men and some men of Montross, mariners, who turned the key in a ship of Kirkcaldie it is ordeaned they sall mak thair publik repentance.

James Brown in Kirkcaldie to compeire befoir the Presbytrie for deserting his place in the sessioun and refuseing to distribute the poore folks silver.

DYSERT, *Julii* 31, 1644.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Gilespie produced the act of St Androis aganest drunkeness, curseing and sweareing, profanatioun of the Lords day, flytting, railling, and absteaners from catechiseing. The Presbytrie ordeanes the said act

to be drawn up schorter and to be registrat in the Presbytrie book and all the brethren to have the extract thairof wherof the tenor follows :—

The Presbytrie seriouslie considering the great abounding of the scandalous sinnes of drunkeness, curseing and sweareing and profanatioun of the Lords day do appoynt and ordeane for the restraneing of the said sinnes that the several sessiouns within bownds be cairfull to sie the said sinnes dullie censured in maner following viz, for the said sinnes of drunkeness, curseing and sweareing and profanatioun of the Lords day als weill by absence from the publik worschipp without relevant excuse as be working upon the same, or any one of these sinnes that these who have heirtofoir been knowen to have been scandalous because of any of these sinnes shall for the verie first fault declaire thair repentance befoir the congregatioun and these who have not been remarked to have been scandalous of befoir sall for the first fault declaire thair fault befoir the sessioun and for the 2 befoir the congregatioun and if any after the 2 and 3 censure sall continew in any of these gross and scandalous sinnes that they be debarred from the sacrament of the Lords Supper ay and quhill they give evident signes of repentance and reformatioun and lykewayes the lykk censure be for these who absent themselfs from the appoynted dyetts of catechising tuyse upon end without some relevant excuse and that elders be advertysed to deprehend such as they fynd gultie of flything railling and misscalling any of thair neighbors although thair be no complaint of partie and ordeanes that such sall satisfie as if the partie did complaine as also that they be faithfull delators of such as sallbe fownd guiltie of any of the foirsaid sinnes and that ministers look to the impartiall executioun of the particulars conteined in this act as they will anser to us at thair perell. Elspett Hutton trelapse in fornicatioun compeireing resaved hir first injunctiouns.

David Lathrise ordeaned to obey the kirk dicipline of Kingorne under the paine of contumacie.

The brethren present reported that they had maid thair collectiouns for the persons recommendit to them be the Generall Assemblie viz., Dysert, 50 merks; whilk is appoyntit for David Nairn; Kirkcaldie, 40 lbs; Kingorne, 24 lbs; Auchtertule, 6 lbs; Weyms, 20 lbs; Skunie, 16 lbs; Kinglessie, 4 ryells of D; Portmook, 3 lbs; Markinche, 24 lbs; Ballingrie, 8 merks; resaved be the Clerk.

The whilk day also Mr William Nairne, Mr John Moncrief and Mr Frederik Carmichaell wer appoynted to distribute the samyne according to the necessities of the resavers whilk was distribute as follows.—*In primis* to David Nairne, 50 merks—Item to Marie Gibson, 20 lbs—Item to Grissell Stewart and Barbara 48 lbs—Item to Edward Blair, 13 lbs 6sh 8d—Item to Cristian Balfour, 20 lbs—Item to Jean Crawfuird, 24 lbs—Item to Elisabeth Kinross with 5 children, 24 lbs—Item to one wanting a leg James a legg 2 dollars—Item to Edward Miller, 16 lbs. The brethren appoynts the visitatiouns to begin this day fyftein dayes whilk day they ar to visite the kirk of Skunie and appoynts Mr James Wilsone to preache thair the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Copies of the act aganest drunkeness, curseing and sweareing and profanatioun of the Lords day delyvered to all the brethren whilk act is ordeaned to be published in all the kirks of the Presbytrie the nixt Sabbath. William Moresone his supplicatioun anent the liberating of his wyff who is deteined in ward for suspicioun of Witchcraft refused.

SKUNNIE, *August* 14.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Skunnie holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne the said day be the Ryt Reverend brethren . . . . . The whilk day also the minister declaires that he haveing spoken to the Clerk of Register the Presbytries judgement anent the burying of his father, My Lord of Durie, for obeying the act of the Generall Assemblie for kirk buriall yit notwithstanding that he had transgressed the samyne by burying his father in the Ile. The Presbytrie thinks meitt to remonstrat to the Clerk of Register to the violatioun of the act of the Generall Assemblie anent kirk buriall and the neglect of thair advyce thairanent and remitts what further orders sallbe taken thairanent to a more frequent meitting of the brethren. Mr Robert Black Reider and Scholemaster compleaning upon the meiness of his maintenance for his interteinment in his calling the brethren advyses the heretors to meitt amongst themselves for taking order thairanent and that betwixt this and Michaelmes and to that effect appoynts Mr Thomas Hogg and Mr Fredrik Carmichell to meitt with them if need beis and to concurr with the heretors anent the samyne who promeises to doe the samyne. The sessioun book of Skunnie remitted to Mr Thomas Hogg to be tryed. The Presbytrie appoynts the kirk of Weyms to be visited this day fyftein days and Mr Alexander Moncreif to preache thair the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . The visitatioun of the kirk of Weyms appoynted to be on Tysday in respect the Erle of Weyms cannot be present on Wednesday. James Browne in Kirkcaldie refuseing to obey the sessioun thair in taking upon the distributioun of the poore folks silver in respect (as he alledges he is not meitt for it nor can attend it) is remitted back agane to the said sessioun. Mr Thomas Hogg reported that he had visited the sessioun book of Skunnie, and had approved it. The process of witchcraft ledd aganest Isobell Johnston in Burntiland being read and dullie considered, the Presbytrie thinks it to be of such weight that a commissioun may be sought aganest hir thairupon. Compeired James Lindsay, parochiner of Auchterdirran, adulterer with Jean Scott: resaved his first injunctiouns.

WEYMS, *August* 27.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Weyms holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon Tysday the 27 day of August be Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie, Moderator . . . The sessioun book committed to Mr Alexander Moncreif to be tryed.

Anent the kirk buriall in Weyms, the Erle of Weyms excused himself of that whilk was done, and promeises for tyme comeing to build ane place without the kirk.

The brethren understanding that thair was ane bairne gotten in the Weyms (as is alledgit) in fornicatioun born be ane Janet Weyms for the whilk no satisfactioun is maid to the kirk, they blame the minister and elders for conceilling the samyne. The said day the minister and elders all purged themselfs of the samyne affirming that they never hard of such a thing till the woman was gone and had removed hirself.

The minister and elders approved the Scholemaster and Reider.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 13.

The whilk day some of the brethren, viz Mr James Symeson, Moderator, Mr Patrik Gilespie, Mr John Moncreif, Mr Josua Meldrome, Mr James Wilsone conveineing at the said kirk at a convenient tyme they appoynt Mr James Symeson to handel the Cowmonhead on Wednesday nixt in Kirkcaldie and seing they had gotten no advertyseing concerning the fast they think meitt to continew the samyne to some other occasioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 18.

The whilk day . . . . All former absence of the brethren excused in respect of the troubles of the countrey. Anent the bairne brought forth be Janet Weyms alledgit gotten in the Weyms, the Minister of Weyms declaires that he hes used all diligence for trying and searching hir out bot can git no knowledge of hir.

The Presbytrie ordeanes to cite the man who is alledgit to be the bairnes father. Anent the kirk buriell in Skunie, the Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Mr Frederik Carmichell to speak and deall with the Clerk of Register thairanent and to report thair anser befoir the Synod. The Presbytrie appoynts a letter to be written to Mr Georg Leslie anent his transportatioun to Leslie.

DYSERT, *September* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie reported that he had written the man who is supposed to be the bairnes father that was gotten in Weyms bot had resaved no anser as yit.

Mr John Moncreif and Mr Frederik Carmichell reported that they could not have occasioun to meitt the Clerk of Register as yit (being over the water.) The brethren appoynts to use thair further diligence and appoynts the Laird of Caskybarrien to goe with them. Mr Patrik Gilespie reports that he read and had the letter sent from the Generall Leslie for Mr John Moncreif to supplie Mr John Smiths place with the armie at Newcastell and Mr John Moncreif acknowledges that he saw and hard the same read. The Presbytrie gives him a calling to goe thither for thrie months and to prepare himself to goe with all diligence. A question being proponed what sallbe done to the woman who haveing brought forth

a bairne and fathering the same upon one man, another man also confesses that he lay with hir: anser, that she satisfie as relapse.

David Tullus his petitioun to be considered be the brethren. The brethren according to the laudable custome of old being all severallie removed one by one for thair tryells together also with the ruleing elders the rest praise God for them and approve them.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *October* 9, 1644.

The whilk day . . . . . The said day according to the order of the Presbytrie the Presbytrie leited thrie for the Moderatorshipp, viz Mr William Nairne, Mr Frederik Carmichell, and Mr Patrik Gilespie the whilk thrie being removed, the Presbytrie choosed Mr Frederik Carmichaell to be Moderator till the nixt ensueing Synod.

Mr Harie Wilkie being advysed to writt to the minister of the West kirk of Edr that he wold causs the Laird of Graunge then resident in that parosne to compeire befoir the sessioun of Weyms for his fornicatioun maid with Janet Weyms thair this day reported that he had written accordinglie and resaved anser from the said minister that he had spoken to Graunge for that effect who had promeised to the minister within ten dayes tyme to compeire befoir the sessioun of Weyms whilk tyme being expyred and he not compeireing the Presbytrie advysed Mr Harie to writt to the gentelmen himself who hes now come to resyde in Fyff, and if he compeire not for his privie letter then to writt to the minister of the paroshe in which he resydes, that he may be sowmonit to compeire. Mr Alexander Moncreif reported that he had visited the sessioun book of Weyms and marked some things not conformallie expressed as neid wer. Mr Harie Wilkie excused himself be reason of the informallitie of his Clerk, and thus the Presbytrie was satisfied. The Presbytrie considering the present exigence of the kirk of Leslie in respect of Mr Georg Leslies refuseing to accept a calling thairto and being informed that my Lord of Newtown with others of the friends of the Erle of Rothess ar inclined to one Mr Thomas Blak of whom the Presbytrie heireth much good, ordeanes Mr Frederik Carmichaell, Moderator, to writt to My L Newtown to try his inclinaitoun thairanent, and if he find that my L Newtown inclyne thairto and the sessioun of Leslie, lykewyse sute him, in that caise they ordeane him to writt to the said Mr Thomas, and invyte him in thair name also. Mr Frederik Carmichaell and Mr John Moncreif appoynted to use further diligence with the Clerk of Register anent his kirk buriall.

Anent some women deteined in ward in Dysert for witchcraft and they not being able to get commissiouns aganest them the Presbytrie thynks they may be enlarged fynding cautioun to compeire when they sallbe challenged. Ruleing elders nominate—for Kirkcaldie William Anderson, for Dysert Monturpie, for Kingorne Robert Thalland, for Burntiland Georg Gairdens, for Auchtertule Halyairds, for Auchterdirran Mr Andro Moncreif, for Kinglessie Balram, for Ballingrie John

Paterson, for Portmook John Smith, for Leslie Andro Beattie, for Markinche Pyetstown, for Kennoquhie Andro Balfour, for Skunnie John Pitcairne, for Weyms Duncan Weyms.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 16 1644.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie to writt to Mr David Munroe to sowmond young Graunge to compeire befoir the sessioun of Weyms for his fornicatioun comitted thair with Janet Weyms.

Compeired Janet Nicolson adultress with David Brown in the paroshe of Auchterdirran: resaved hir last injunctiouns. The Presbytrie nominats and presents Mr Alexander Symeson to thair Bursers place.

The Presbytrie in respect of the ensueing fast continews thair nixt meitting till Thursday come eight dayes. The courss taken be the Presbytrie the last day for planting of the kirk of Leslie being agane debated and consideratiouns proponed and considered ar notwithstanding resolved to adhere to the courss formerlie resolved upon.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* last.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie reported that he had written to Mr David Munroe anent the Laird of Graunge bot resaved no letter as yit : the brethren appoynts him to writt agane. The Presbytrie haveing resaved a supplicatioun from the paroshiners of Leslie in favors of Mr Thomas Blak to be thair minister the Presbytrie considering the long vacancie of that kirk and the parochiners thair humblie supplicating appoynts Mr Frederik Carmichaell, Moderator, to writt to the said Mr Thomas Blak to come to Leslie to preache that the parochiners may heir him. The Presbytrie haveing resaved a letter from Mr William Bennett from Edr for a thanksgiving to be celebrat for the intaking of Newcastell they appoyt the samyne to be keip the nixt Lords day. John Kay compeiring haveing bein 7 years in the East Indies craved that he may have the benefit of mariage whilk the Presbytrie grants to him. Mr John Moncreif being to repair to Newcastell to the armie thair craved that his place might be supplyed. The brethren promeises so to doe. All reported that they had keipt the fast.

DYSERT, *November* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren reported that they had keipt the thanksgiving. Compeired John Kay and Margaret Bennett, the said Margaret craveing mariage of the said John according to ane alledgit promeise : he denyed the samyne affirming that he was a bairne at the tyme she alledges the samyne and wist not what a promeise meant.

The Presbytrie thinks that he cannot be urged to mary hir. 40 sh payed be Mr Frederik Carmichaell to James Murray for 2 years. Item a merk for acts and sermon.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Andro Robertson presented ane supplicatioun from the parochiners of Leslie supplicating to have Mr Thomas Blak to be thair minister

who haveing hard him preache wer weill content with his doctrine (having also resaved a letter from my Lord of Newtown for that effect) and supplicate for his speedie tryells and admissioun. The said Mr Thomas being present and content to follow the calling the Presbytrie resolves to satisfie thair desyre. A fast appoyntit to be keipt upon Sonday come eight dayes and to be intimate the nixt Sabbath with preparatioun. Mr Harie Wilkie produced Captaine Herds band for the moneyes that wer collected for the captives in Argier. The Presbytrie accepts thairof and committs the samyne to Mr Harie Wilkie in custodie.

DYSERT, *November* 20, 1644.

The whilk day Mr John Chalmer payed 4 lbs for the Burser for the year 1645. Mr Alexander Moncreif payed 20 sh for Mr James Murray.

Compeired Kathren Dun trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir first injunctioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr Fredrik Carmichaell and Mr Robert Bruce payed for the Burser. The Presbytrie gives Mr Thomas Blak for his further tryell the Cowmonhead *De Presentia Christi In Coena.* All the brethren that they had keipt the fast. 13 lbs delyvered be the Moderator for Mr James Murray.

DYSERT, *December* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Clark incestuous person with Mr James Nairne, haveing fallen with his Uncle David Weyms befoir, who resaved hir last injunctiouns. A letter resaved from the Presbytrie of Cuper desyreing Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Chalmer to meitt with them anent the tryell of Mr William Barclay, minister at Falkland.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 12, 1644.

The whilk day . . . . Kirkcaldie, Kingorne, and Auchtertule, payed for the Burser. A letter resaved from the commissioners at Edr for chuseing commissioners for the Generall Assemblie.

Ordeans everie minister to bring thair ruleing elder the nixt day with them. A fast is appoynted to be keipt the first Sabbath of Januarii. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie desyreing to enter upon the exercise the brethren appoynts him to teach upon the 1 verse of the 12 Chap to the Hebrews privatlie for his tryells. Anent the slander persewed be James Colyear aganest Elspett Lowdone, being sufficientlie proven befoir the sessioun of Kirkcaldie ordeanes the said Elspett to mak hir publik repentance for the samyne. Also the Presbytrie declaires that the woman who was at that tyme hir servand bot now is removed from hir might be resaved witness. 69 lbs resaved for the Burser, delyvered to Mr James Symeson.

DYSERT, *December* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Litiljohn Commissioner from the Presbytrie of Cuper, desyred of the brethren that they wold causs sowmoned some of thair

number to compeire in Edr anent the tryell of Mr William Barclay at Falkland who is challenged of malignancie whereunto they condescended. Anent the chuseing of Commissioners for the Generall Assemblie the brethren chuses Mr Frederik Carmichaell, Mr John Moncreif, and Mr John Smith, ministers, and the Erle of Dalhousie, ruleing elder. Mr Thomas Blak gave in his *Theses* who is to handel the Cowmonhead the nixt day *De Presentia Christi In Coena*, and is appoynted to bring his testimonial the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 26, 1644.

The whilk day Mr Frederik Carmichell, Mr John Moncreif, Mr John Smith, Commissioners chosen for the Generall Assemblie gave thair oaths of fidelitie and with the discharge of thair commissioun. Oath taken be Mr James Symeson. A fast is to be intimat the nixt Sabbath to be keipt the Sabbath thairafter with preparatioun the Saturday befoir. Mr Thomas Blak produced his testimonial whilk being read and hard was accepted and approven be the brethren.

The supplicatiouns of John Johnson and the relict of Livetenant Collonell Bryscen with a recommendation from the commissioners of the kirk at Edr sein and taine to consideratione. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie taught upon the place of scriptur assignit to him for a private tryell who gave the brethren great contentment, and for his further tryell gives him Hosea 3. v. last. Compeired Agnes Hogg anent the mater of slander pursued be James Colyear elder, aganest hir. She alledged the samyne to have been spoken be hirself. The Presbytrie persaveing the inconvenience that may fall amongst them being so near a relatioun nominate and appoynt Mr John Moncreif, Mr John Smith, Mr Frederik Carmichael, and Mr James Wilsone to deall for some courss of accommodatioun amongst them upon Elspett Lowdens humble request for that effect.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 2, 1645.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Blak handled the Cowmonhead ssignit to him, viz. *De Presentia Christi In Coena* in Latin privatelie and susteined disputatiouns thairupon in part. The rest continewed to the nixt day. John Johnstone and Livetenant Brysens relict recommended to the particular kirks for supplie. Compeired Beatrix Farret in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun: received hir first injunctiouns. Georg Gairdens being chosen commissioner for the Generall Assemblie approven of the brethren. The Presbytrie ordeanes the Clerk to writt a testimonial to Mr James Gilespie of his good behaviour heir. Mr Frederik Carmichaell is appoynted to repaire to the armie at Newcastel upon a letter from the Generall Leslie for that effect.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren appoynted to deall in James Colyers mater with Elspett Lowden ar appoynted to meitt after dinner. James Law for Kirkcaldie, Mr Robert Cunningham for Kingorne, and Georg Gay for Dysert commissioners for the General Assemblie, thair commissioun sein and approven be the Presbytrie.

Henrie Vertie in Kirkcaldie being desyred to carye some amunitione from Burntiland to Falkland, refuseing, it was showen to him that it was Gods causs; he replied as is alledgit, it is the Devills causs: sowmonit to compeire this day thrie weiks it being the first day of meitting. Mr Thomas Black susteined further disputatiouns upon his *Theses* and not fullie approven be the brethren on this poynt of his tryells they give him for further tryell the Cowmonhead *De Certitudine Salutis* to handel in Inglishe and is to sustein disputatiouns thereupon and thairafter to be tryed in his Hebreu, viz., Psal 110 and in his Greik *ad aperturam libri* and in his questiounes. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie handled the place of scriptur assignit to him viz. Hosea 3 v. last and was approven be the brethren who gives him for further tryell the Cowmonhead *De Paedobaptismo* to handel in Latine.

KIRKCALDIE, *Feb* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symeson appoynted to moderate in Mr Frederik Carmichaells absence till he return from the armie. Henrie Vertie being sowmonit: called, and not compeireing is ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day literatorie. Compeired James Andersone in Weyms quadrilapse in fornicatioun; ordeaned to satisfie as ane adulterer; resaved his first injunctiouns.

The whilk day Mr John Smith and Mr John Moncreif wer appoynted to pursue James Colyears business with Elspett Lowden and his dochter to ane settleing. Anent the Laird of Graunge his seatt in the kirk of Kingorne put in be him aganest ane act of the sessioun of Kingorne and protestatione of the Laird of Tarbett in the contrair as being prejudiciall to Sr Georg Areskine his seatt by impedding his sight and heiring of the minister the Presbytrie appoynts the said kirk of Kingorne to be visited for that effect upon Wednesday nixt and that to serve for the ordinar visitatioun of the said kirk and appoynts Mr Patrik Gilespie to preache thair the said day. A letter resaved from Mr Georg Gilespie anent some differences betwixt him and Mr Harie Wilkie concerning the kirk Manss of Weyms. The brethren appoynts Mr John Moncrief and Mr Pat Gilespie to deall for settleing of that bussines. Mr Thomas Blak read and exponed his Hebreu text prescryved to him and gave full satisfaction therein to the brethren as also was tryed in his Greik viz. Epist Jud and John 12, 1. who was also approven on thir poynts of his tryells and giving in his *Theses* is to handel the Cowmonhead this day fyftein dayes.

KINGORNE, *Februarii* 26.

The visitatione of the kirk of Kingorne holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be Mrs HarieWilkie, James Wilsone, Patrik Gilespie, who preached the said day Text Ezek 3., 17 . . . Henrie Virtie being sowmonit: called: compeired not: ordeaned to be sowmonit the nixt day pro 2. The same day the Presbytrie being speciallie convened for takeing order (with the rest of the sessioun in Kingorne, aganest Robert Kirkcaldie of Graunge for the transgressing of thair act about the removeing and enlargeing of the Laird of Graunge his seatt, as also anent the compleint of Sr Georg Areskyne of Innerteyle for his interest and prejudices sus-

steined be him for his part. The Presbytrie haveing considered the compleint as also haveing hard Kirkaldie of Graunge speak for himself finds the Laird to have transgressed the Act of the Sessioun, and to be answerable for his contempt of the authoritie of the sessioun; bot while the Presbyterie wer seriouslie thinking upon the censure of the foirsaid contempt, the Laird of Graunge appeired humblie befoir them and the eldershipp of Kingorne thair present and humblie acknowledged his rashness in upsetting of his seat with so litill regaird for the foirsaid act of sessioun for the whilk he deserved that the seatt might cast to the door of the kirk and that he wold hold it as a courtesie if the Presbytrie and sessioun of Kingorne as also Sr George Arskeyne of Innerteyle for his interest to remove the said seatt to stand still and not to be removed bot to be regulated by the Presbytrie so that the said Sr Georg may suffer no prejudice, whose prejudice he professed he niver intendit however things had fallen out contrairie to his intentioun with which consideratiouns the Presbytrie with consent of the minister and elders as also of the parties interest accepts of the said acknowledgment and offer and decerns the seatt not to be removed provydeing always that Sr Georg Arskeyne of Innerteyle be not prejudgit naither in seing or heireing and that all persons may have the more satisfactioun, the Presbytrie nominates Mr John Smith and Mr John Chalmer and Mr Patrik Gilespie to meitt at the kirk at Kingorne with all convenience to see the foirsaid provisioun put to executioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 6.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Blak handled the Cowmonhead *De Certitudine Salutis* and was approven on this poynt of his tryells. Resaved the said day copies of the warning and causes of ane ensueing fast whilk is to be keipt the last Wednesday of March.

Mr Thomas Blak is appoynted to anser to his questiouns the first day he can be present.

Compeired Henrie Vertie for alledgit uttering some malicious speaches whilk he denyed. The mater to be tryed be witnesses. Compeired Walter Moneypenny in Dysert for disobedience to the sessioun as slandering of David Chrystie thair who misbehaveing himself befoir the Presbytrie is remitted to the Magistrats to be wardit while he find cautioun to the sessioun of Dysert and to be censured for his misbehaviour to the Presbytrie.

The Presbytrie ordeanes the Ministers of Dysert to baptise Marion Henrisons bairne brought forth be hir to Andro Bodie who is dead and cause hir find cautioun that if it sallbe proven heirafter to have bein otherway in that caise she sall satisfie accordinglie. A letter resaved this day desyreing Mr Alexander Moncreif to prepare himself to repair to Balcarres his regiment as he was ordeaned.

DYSERT, *March* 16, 1645.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moncreif and Mr John Smith reported their diligence anent the mater remitted to them be the Presbytrie touching James Colyears business with Elspett Lowden and hir dochter whose judgement was

becauss of the parties neir relatioun (this being the first fault in this kind and wer unknown to be scandalous befoir) that thair fault be humblie confessed befoir the sessioun of Kirkcaldie and thair penaltie to be payed according to the order of the sessioun of Kirkcaldie. The Presbytrie approves thair judgments and ordeanes the sessioun of Kirkcaldie to doe accordinglie. Compeired Walter Moneypenny who according to the order of the magistrats humblie acknowledged his misbehaviour the last day befoir the Presbytrie and craved God and them pardon.

The Presbytrie ar satisfied with him. As for his process with David Chrystie the Presbytrie remitts the samyne to the sessioun of Dysert. Compeired William Bolton in Burntiland, adulterer with Isobell Arnot: resaved his first injunctiouns. Compeired Allison Anderson in Weyms relapse in adulterie: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Anent these who ar fugitive from thair cullars at the warrs it is ordeaned that they sall acknowledge thair fault according to the Act of the Synod and that they promeise with all convenient diligence to repair back agane to thair cullors or ells to be proceeded aganest with the censures of the kirk. Compeired Isobell Arnott adultress with William Bolton: resaved hir first injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 20.

Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie handled his Cowmonhead *De Paedo-baptismo*, and susteined disputatiounes thairupon according to the order who had for text Gen 17, 7 who was approven be the brethren and was admitted to pass upon the publick exercise. Mr Harie Wilkie reported that he had payit five hundreth merks to Mr Georg Gilespie for the manss of the Weyms whilk he desyres to be minute in the Presbytrie book *ad futuram rei memoriam*, Mr Patrik Gilesplie acknowleges the resait of the money for his brother, the Presbytrie grants his desyre. The said day Mr John Smith, Mr John Chalmer, and Mr Patrik Gilespie reported that according to the appoyntment of the Presbytrie at the kirk of Kingorne they did compose the difference betwixt Sr Georg Arskeyne of Innerteyle and Robert Kirkcaldie of Grange, viz, by lowering the Laird of Grange his seatt half a foot and heighting My Lord of Innerteyls seatt, a foot whilk impedit My Lord of Innerteyls seatt, nothing aither in heireing or seing of the minister whilk regulatioun the Presbytrie did approve. Mr Thomas Blak susteined his tryells in his questiouns and was approven in this poynt. The Presbytrie appoynts him his popular sermone to handel the nixt day and gives him for text 1 Cor 10, 16.

DYSERT, *March* 27.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Blak handeled his popular sermon and was approven be the brethren. 6 dollars whererof 3 rex and 3 croce received from Dysert for Johnson and Brysens relict . . . A letter resaved from My Lord Elcho for a minister to his regiment.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer to repair thairto and to remain ane moneth at most.

Memorandum to try at the Synod for John Kirkcaldie adulterer. Compeired Isobell Hutton confessed hirself with bairne to a trooper whom she knew not (as

she affirms : remitts hir to be further dealt with. The brethren according to the laudable custome befoir the Synod being removed severallie for thair tryells the rest praises God for them all particularlie, bot censures Mr Robert Bruce for his often absence from the Presbytrie.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April*, 4 1645.

The whilk day Mr Thomas Blak handled the place of scriptur assignit to him and was approven be the brethren for this as for all the former poynts of his tryells and admonished to be more diligent in his Greik. The Presbytrie appoynts his edict to be served the nixt Sabbath and he to be resaved minister at Leslie upon Tysday come eight dayes the 17 day of this instant and Mr John Moncreif appoynted to preache at Leslie the said day. Mr John Moncreif is chosen Moderator by pluralitie of voyces till the nixt Synod.

10 Merks resaved for the first 2 supplicants and 4 for the last, 3 from Auchterdirran. Item a dollar resaved for the first 2, and a dollar for the last 3 from Leslie. Item from Kinglessie for the last 3, 2 dollars. Item 6 dollars resaved from Dysert for the first 2 and 3 dollars for the last 3. Item from Kirkcaldie 45 lbs 6 sh 8d for all. Mr Patrik Weddell also being recommended resaved 5 dollars. Item Robert Houston resaved 6 dollars. The brethren resaved this day a letter from My Lord Generall Leslie desyreing that Mr Patrik Gilespie might be sent to his armie to attend his staff. Anser thairto continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *April* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Edict returned from Leslie dulie served and indorsat. All parties called that had anything to object aganest Mr Thomas Blak his entrie to be hard : none compeired. The said Mr Thomas is appoynted to preache at Leslie the nixt Sabbath, Mr John Chalmer at Skunie. Anent the letter sent be his Exell Generall Leslie with a lite carrying the names of Mr John Moncreif, Mr Frederik Carmichaell and Mr Patrik Gilespie for one of these to attend his staff the Presbytrie haveing removed these thrie of the lite considering Mr Frederik not to have stayed thrie moneths with the staff (his comeing home being occasioned by the Lord of Balgonie his sickness) appoynts him to goe back agane and fulfill his tyme.

Anent the appoyntment of the Presbytrie of Mr John Chalmer to goe south with My Lord Elchoes regiment and to stay a moneth thair notwithstanding he was in reddines yit resaveing no calling from the said Lord all this foirsaid tyme as also considering a new burden imposed upon the Presbytrie by the outgoeing of Mr Harie Wilkie does loose the said Mr John from his attendance on the said regiment. The whilk day also anent a letter resaved from the Erle of Dunfermeline seconded with ane act of the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie ordeaneing Mr Harie Wilkie to repair to the armie at Newcastel to attend his regiment the Presbytrie also ordeanes him to repair thither. 6 lbs resaved from Anchtertule for all the former supplicants. 6 dollars resaved from Burntiland for the first 2. Item 2 dollars for the rest. Item from Kingorne for the last 8 merks.

Compeired Patrik Matheson in Weyms, adulterer : resaved his first injunctiouns.

LESLIE, *April* 17.

The whilk day the brethren of the Presbytrie being mett at Leslie, viz Mr John Moncreif, Moderator, who preached the said day text 1. Tim. 4, 16. Mr Frederik Carmichaell, Minister at Markinche; Mr Harie Wilkie, minister at Weyms; Mr Patrik Gilespie, minister at Kirkcaldie; Mr John Smith, minister at Burntisland; Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran; Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie; Mr Robert Bruce, minister at Ballingrie; Mr Georg Ogilbie, minister at Portmook, did resave Mr Thomas Blak minister at the said kirk according to the order. Absents—Mrs James Symeson, James Wilsone, William Nairne.

Compeired Margaret Adam of Leslie trelapse in fornicatioun: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired William Wannan, collyear in Blair, in the parochine of Ballingrie who confessed the murther of Patrik Peirs and that he had a letter of Staines and had agreed with the partie. The Presbytrie thinking him not yit sensible of his heinous fault nor so humbled as he ought to be sowmonds him *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Mr Patrik Gilespie to deall with the Erle of Mortone and the Laird of Kirknes anent the chaunge of the kirk of Portmook.

DYSERT, *April* 24.

. . . The said day also Mr John Moncreif and Mr Patrik Gilespie reported that they had dealt with the Laird of Kirknes anent the chaunge of the kirk of Portmook whom they fownd most unwilling to give satisfactioun to the Presbytrie thairanent. The Presbytrie appoynts them to deall with the Erle of Mortone thairanent. Mrs John Smith, Thomas Melvill and John Chalmer reported that they went to Leslie as they wer appoynted to have mett with the Heretors thair and whom it concerned anent the reparatioun of the kirk and the ministers manss bot could have no meitting. The distressed estaite of Kelso being recommendit be the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie to the Presbytrie the brethren promeises to read the act in all thair kirks and to collect for them in thair parochines. Henrie Chrystie refuseing to communicate being charged thairto thrice ordeaned to be proceeded aganest with the censures of the kirk being declaired contumax. Compeired James Norman in Dysert adulterer: resaved his first injunctiouns. 10 lbs payit be Burntiland for the Burser. Reference to the Assemblie: what sallbe the punishment of these who gives or takes drinks for the destroying of young infants in the womb befoir thair birth. William Boltons wyff and hir sister appoyntit to be sowmonit to the nixt day for alledgit offering to give some herbs or drink for destroying of hir husbands adulterous bairne begotten upon Isobell Arnett.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren reported that they had all maid intimatioun of a collectioun for Kelso and had begun to collect. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Smith to resave the samyne and to give tickets thairof.

The said day also compeired William Wannan who humblie confessed his

sinne in murthering Patrik Peirs and was content to submitt himself to whatsoever censure sallbe enjoined on him. The Presbytrie desyres his minister and with him Mr John Chalmer, Thomas Melvill, and Georg Ogilbie to deall further with him and make him sensible of the hayeneousnes of his fault.

Mr John Moncreif and Patrik Gilespie reported that they went to the Erle of Mortone as they wer appoynted, bot could not find him: ordeaned to go to him some other time.

DYSERT, *Maii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moncreif and Mr Georg Gilespie reported that they went to the Erle of Mortone and dealt with him as they wer appoynted anent the chaunge of the kirk of Portmook who promeised to send some gentlemen to the Presbytrie to bring his anser to them. The Presbytrie dispenses with Captain Sibbalds mariage upon tuo dayes proclamatiouns becauss of his present returning to the armie.

A letter resaved this day from my Lord Generall Leslie for a minister to relieve Mr Frederik Carmichaell: the Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif to fulfill his tour not being done and gives him a calling thairto. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie was tryed in his questiouns who gave the brethren great contement and was be them licensed and authorised to preache.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 29, 1645.

The whilk day . . . . . Ordeanes Georg Bosuell of the West Mill to be sowmonit to the nixt day for his misbehaviour towards Mr Patrik Gilespie. Appoynts these brethren, viz Mrs John Smith, Thomas Melvill, and John Chalmers who went to Leslie to deall thair with the heretors and whom it concerns anent the reparatioun of the Kirk and manss to repair thither agane for that effect. Andro Walker from Irland being recommendit be the Synod to the severall Presbytries of Fyff for support the Presbytrie recommends him to be helped in thair severall kirks. Mr John Jamieson being willing to enter upon thair exercise the Presbytrie gives him ane text 1 Cor 1 at the end to handel privatelie for his tryell.

DYSERT, *June* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Georg Bosuell of the West Mill being sowmoned to compeire this day: called: compeired not, to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

Appoynts a letter to be written with the brethren who ar to meitt at Leslie with the heretors for reparatioun of the Kirk and ministers manss. Anent the supplicatioun given in be Jean Kirkcaldie in Kirkcaldie bearing that the sessioun of Dysert had used hir strictlie for ane alledged slandour of misbehaviour with one Captain Sibbald craveing ane mitigatioun thairof the Presbytrie continews thair anser to the nixt day and ordeanes hir to be present the said day.

Compeired James Lindsay in Auchterdirran adulterer and resaved his last injunctiouns. Mr John Chalmer reported that he had spoken and dealt with William Wannan who frielie and willinglie had confessed the cruel murther of Patrik Peirs bot was not so sensible as he wold have wished him.

Edict to be servit at Kirkcaldie on Sabbath for visitatioun of the kirk thairof.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 11, 1645.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Kirkcaldie holden within the paroshe kirk thairof the said day be Mr John Moncreif, minister at Kingorne, Moderator: Edict returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. Compeired Alexr Symeson and William Symesons in Dysert whose wyfes wer delated for witches (be some witches in Dysert) bot nothing proven aganest them supplicating that thair saids wyfes may be admitted to the ensueing communioun. The Presbytrie knowing *rem non esse integram* in respect the Synod had meddled with that mater befoir remitts the said mater to the nixt Synod. The Presbytrie grants that Andro Hird in the parochine of Auchterdirran sall have the benefit of mariage and gives warrand to Mr John Chalmer minister at the said kirk to mary him. The visitatioun in respect of the schortness of the time is continewed to be followed forth the nixt day and intimatioun thairof to be mad that the elders and these whom it concerns may be present heir the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moncreif, Moderator, being repaired to the armie at Newcastel, Mr John Smith is chosen the Moderator till the nixt Assemblie.

The Presbytrie appoynts the kirk of Auchtertule to be visited the nixt day and Mr John Chalmer to preache thair. Appoynts the sessioun book of Kirkcaldie to be visited be Mr James Wilson, minister at Dysert.

Anent the patent for Dundie: to be considred the nixt day. The Presbytrie meitting this second day of visitatioun of Kirkcaldie and haveing taken to thair consideratioun the depostitioun of the elders severallie examined did represent to the Presbytrie the particulars thairof. 1. That the communion is seldom celebratt as also unseasonablie when the greatest part ar at sea. 2. That thair is no that loveing fellowshipp betwixt the ministers as becomes yokefellowes. 3. That they ar not so cairfull as they should be to settle differences and to reconcil brethren. 4. That Mr Ja Symeson is too credulous in caryeing things to the pulpett upon heirsay, too controversiall in his sermons, that he preaches not twyse upon the Sabbath when his collegue is necessarllie absent in the publik employment, that his gesture in prayer and expressiouns ar not so grave as becomes them who ar to speak to God. 5. That Mr Pat Gilespie speaks too low in preacheing. The elders lykewayes removed it was represented that they doe not keip thair meittings weill, that they ar not so faitfull in delating of drunkards and other offenders as thair charge binds them to. The Moderator is appoynted to represent these things respectivelie to the ministers and elders to admonish and exhort them in the name of God to fidelitie and unitie, whilk was accordinglie done, which being represented to the ministers they took it weill bot concerning the not settling of differences the ministers refused it and desyred them to shew any instance wherein they had failed. While the

Moderator was representing the things foirsaid to the ministers according to the depositiouns of the elders severallie sworne Mr James Symeson did except aganest the severall swearing of the elders affirming the same to be a noveltie and that he acknowledged it not to be ane act becauss, said he, it was not voyced. Upon which occasioun he called the Directorie for Worship a noveltie and that it was carried that some may be added what wold he have said if bishops had done so. The Presbytrie commoved that these expressiouns did appoynt 3 of thair brethren, to wit, Mrs Tho Melvill, Josua Meldrum and Robert Bruce to speak with him and to assay to bring him to the sence of his eschaps and to mak report to the Presbytrie the nixt day.

AUCHTERTULE, *Junii* 25.

The whilk day the brethren assembed at the kirk of Auchtertule for visitatioun of the said kirk becauss there was a report to be given in concerning the visitatioun of Kirkcaldie they thought fit to tak that first to thair consideratioun and the brethren appoynted reporting thair diligence. A brother affirmed that he being occasionallie in Kirkcaldie at sermon hard Mr James Symeson in the said sermon after the said visitatioun and admonishioun at the said visitatioun utter these words following namelie that men might not now come so heigh as to reprove the sinnes of great men, that he had bein challenged for bringing things to the pulpett upon heirsay bot he knew better what he spak in the chayre of Veritie and was now to mak his apologie and said moreover ar they not witless men that say the Revelatioun should not be preached and is not pertinent for this time—whilk expressiounes the Presbytrie judgeing to reflex and cast aspertiones upon thair proceedings towards him in the visitatioun did thairfore delay the censure of his former expressiounes while the present emergent be tryed and ordeanes witnesses to be sowmonit for that effect whereupon the said Mr James did freelie acknowledge the former expressiounes in preacheing. The Presbytrie delays any further consideratioun thairof till the nixt day. The visitatioun of the kirk of Auchtertule holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be Mr John Smith, Moderator, Mrs James Symeson, Patrik Gilespie, ministers at Kirkcaldie, James Wilsone, minister at Dysert, John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran who preached the said day text 2 Tim 4, 6. Thomas Melvill, Thomas Blak and Mr Joshua Meldrom minister at the said kirk. Doctrin censured and allowed.

The edict was returned with the names of the heretors and elders all being present. Ruleing elders present—Mr Gilbert Clark of Pityocher for Kinglessie, James Tod for Auchterdiran and ruleing elders for Kingorne, Burntiland, Auchtertule, Portmook, Weyms.

The minister removed for his tryells and all the Elders sevarallie examined upon their great oath approved him both in his lyfe and doctrin and in his conversatioun and in all the poynts of his calling.

The minister returning and the elders removed for thair tryells did approve them all and commendit them and praised God for them. Mr John Chalmer, one of the commissioners direct to Leslie to deall with the heretors thair anent the perfyte-

ing of the fabrik of that Kirk did report that they dyrect thair letter to the heretors of the said paroshe for warning them to convene upon the 12 day of Junii for taking courss for perfyteing the building of the Kirk of Leslie becauss the first stent comes schort thairof—Convened Sr John Leslie of Newtown, Sr David Creightone of Lugtowne, the Erle of Rothess his tutors for his Lordshipps interest, John Forrester of Strathenrie, Mr David Aytone, advocatt, heretors; and finding that thair will be fyve hundreth punds required to perfyte the work above the first stent the said parties and heretors did oblyge themselfs for thair proportional part of the samyne according to the just and true role of thair frie rent of the said paroshe condescended upon at Leslie, Septem 8, 1642 years, betwixt and the first of Julii nixt to come in this present year, unto the collectors appoynted as the note subscryvit with thair hands bears.

Lykas the said Sr John Leslie and Sr David Creightone did declaire and promeise that they for thair owne parts ar and sallbe willing and sall effectuallie deall with the rest of my Lord Rothess tutors that what sall happen to excress in expenses in the building and perfyteing of the foirsaid Kirk over and above the sowmes stented at first and at this time sallbe furnished and allowed out of My Lord of Rothess his rents out of the said paroshe for completeing the payment of materials or workmen.

A fast is appoynted be the Commissioners of the kirk to be keipt upon the 1 Thursday of Julii.

DYSERT, *Julii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the fault fownd at the visitatioun of the Kirk at Kirkcaldie for not haveing the communion more frequentlie report is maid that they have appoyntit tuo dyets for thair communion heirafter.

The sessioun book of Kirkcaldie visited be Mr James Wilsone, minister at Dysert approved, also the sessioun book of Auchtertule visited be Mr Thomas Blak minister at Leslie, bot declaired censurable in this, that money is taken out of the box for buying timber to the Kirk. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that any fault that sallbe fownd heirafter in any sessioun book within the Presbytrie that the visitatioun sallbe marked be the Clerk in the Presbytrie book.

Mr John Chalmer, and Mr Josua Meldrom direct from the Presbytrie at the visitatioun of Auchtertule to try anent some speeches alledgit to be uttered be Mr James Symeson, minister at Kirkcaldie, thair report continewed till afterwards. The Directorie sent over from Edinburgh with the acts of the last Generall Assemblie is appoynted to be practised be all the brethren in all the kirks within the Presbytrie, and to begin upon Sonday come fyftein dayes.

A thanksgiving is appoyntit to be keipt the nixt Sabbath for the last victorie of the Parliament aganest the cowmon enmie. Appoynts also a fast to be keipt the nixt Wednesday for the desolatioun of our armie in the north.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 17.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the fast keipt the day befoir. Absent—Mr Josua Meldrom. Ruleing elders present for Kirkcaldie, Kingorne,

Weyms, Auchterdirran, Portmook. A letter direct from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie requyreing a minister to be sent out of everie Presbytrie to the armie and that a fast be intimate the nixt Sabbath to be keipt upon the 26 day of Julii and appoynts Mr John Chalmer to goe forth to the armie from this Presbytrie and continew thrie moneths.

No Presbytrie to be keipt the nixt day in respect of the fast and cowmon affairs bot that the brethren meitt heir in Kirkcaldie this day fyftein dayes where thair is to be no exercise, bot Mr John Jamieson to handel the Cowmonhead.

August 20.

Some brethren meitting declaire that thair is a meitting of brethren of each Presbytrie to meitt at Kennoquhie on Friday nixt.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 17.

The whilk day thair was no exercise in respect of the troubles of the countrie and the battle foughten at Kilsyth, upon the 15 day of August byepast, bot certain brethren meitting, viz Mrs Pat Gilespie, Thomas Melvill, Tho Blak, Alexr Moncreif, James Wilsone, Mr Thomas Melvill was chosen Moderator for the time. The exercise continewed upon Mr Georg Ogilbie and Thomas Blak to meitt the nixt day at Dysert. The brethren presentlie convened doe appoynt a day of thanksgiving to be keipt for this lait victorie of Da Leslie aganest James Grahame at Philliphaugh the nixt Sabbath and the brethren present to advertyse the absents. William Kay, ane of Balcarres troopers compeireing craved that he myt have the benefit of mariage being ane singell man as is testified be John Lindsay his rootmaster. The Presbytrie grants his desyre upon conditioun that after his mariage he sall return to his service whilk he promeises to doe. Anent Helen Wood whose husband was killed at Tippermoore the Presbytrie thinks that she may have the benefit of mariage.

DYSERT, *September* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . All reported that they had keipt the thanksgiving. Mr James Wilsone reported that he had spoken with Mr Thomas Hogg anent his not practiseing of the Directorie who ansered him that he was mindit to doe it bot wished that he might heir of the practice of the rest of the Presbytries befoir. The Presbytrie thinks his anser not satisfactorie and appoynts him that if have anything to say thairanent that he come to the Presbytrie and declaire it and appoynts Mrs Thomas Melvill and Alexander Moncreif to signifie the same to him and report his anser. Georg Gairdens commissioner from Burntiland craveing of the Presbytrie the supplie and preaching by some of thair number *per vices* the Presbytrie refuses so to doe untill they know the reason of thair minister deserting of them whom they know to be conscientius and that offences ar given to him seing that he is not employed to attend the armie as also seing they know not his owne mind thairanent. The said commissioner desyred of the Presbytrie that they wold mediate and writt thair minister to return and they sold labour to remove any offence given to him.

Mr John Chalmer is appoynted to preache at Kingorne the nixt Sabbath. A letter resaved from the commissioners of the kirk with some remonstrances anent the carriage of ministers whilk is appoynted to be registrat whereof the tenor followeth :—

Inormities and corruptions in the ministrie and the remedies thairof recommended to the severall Presbytries. Compeired Patrik Mathieson adulterer with Helen Robertson : resaved his last injunctiouns. (*Here follows a lengthy document an abridged copy of which will be found in a Compendium of the laws of the Church of Scotland, pages 171, 2, 3, 4.*)

Mr Harie Wilkie declaired that the act aganest kirk buriall was violate in the Weyms by bureing of the Laird of Innerleyths bairne as also in transporting of a seatt to the prejudice of the people. The Presbytrie finds the same censurable bot delays the samyne to some more convenient time at what time also order is to be taken .anent kirk buriall in Dysert. The Presbytrie promeises to support Mr William Cheyne who presentlie resaved 5 lbs 12 sh

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill reported that he had spoken with Mr Thomas Hogg anent his not practising of the Directorie whose anser was that he was mindfull and willing to doe so.

Compeired Thomas Young in Portmook adulterer with Isobell Hutton who resaved his first injunctiouns ; the said Isobell also compeireing. The Presbytrie promeises to help Elspett Balfour the poore relict of a minister. The time of the Provincial Assemblie being the nixt weik to be keipt at Kirkcaldie the brethren ar mindit to keip the samyne bot leaves the censureing of the brethren at this time 1. In respect of the raritie of thair number. 2. In respect of the oncertaintie of the Assemblie. 3. Absence of ruleing elders.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *October* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . The roles of the persons killed at Tippermore and Kilsyth wer given in for the paroshes of Kirkcaldie, Kingorne, Portmook, Leslie, Kinglessie, Markinche, Skunie, Weyms.

James Henderson quadrilapse in fornicatioun compeireing to resave his first injunctiouns continewed till he be more sensible of his faults. Mr Pat Gilespie being appoynted be the commissioners of the kirk to repaire to the armie in Ingland craves that his place may be supplied in his absence be the Presbytrie once upon the Sabbath and upon Munday in the morne and Mr James Symeson to supplie the rest. The Presbytrie promeises so to doe and Markinche is appoynted to begin to supplie Kirkcaldie upon Sunday come eight dayes and Mr Josua Meldrum to supplie Burntiland. The chuseing of the Moderator continewed to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the chuseing of a Moderator, Mr John Moncreif Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Joshua Meldrom being leited Mr John Moncrief by pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator.

Compeired James Hontlie confessed adultrie with Isobell Wilsone his servand: resaved his first injunctiouns who in respect of his place with the armie at Newcastel may not attend to fulfill his repentance is appoynted to begin the samyne befoir he goe thither and thairafter to purchase a foreloaf to return and end the samyne. The Presbytrie haveing no ministers sones of thair number to be thair Burser they ar content to bestow the samyne upon Mr David Thomson in Dysert upon his humble suit thairanent for the space of four years.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichaell reported that thair was a fast appoynted be the meitting of the kirk at Glasgow to be keipt upon the 23 of this instant. The parochiners of Leslie humblie requesting that ane years stipend of the said kirk which rests unpaid and is naither debtfull to this minister nor his predecessor might be employed upon the reparatioun of the kirk manss, the Presbytrie agrees thairto.

DYSERT, *November* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Wilsone being appoynted be the commissioun of the kirk to repaire to the armie in Ingland craved that his place might be supplied in his absence whilk was granted. The Presbytrie in respect of Mr Robert Douglas his present being in Kirkcaldie requests him to supplie the place so long as he is heir. Compeired James Henrieson quadrilapse in fornicatioun: resaved his last injuuctiouns. The Presbytrie at the request of Mr Georg Ogilbie was pleased to recommend the kirk of Portmook to the commissioners of the kirk to deall with the complaints of Kirknes for his favour thairanent. 24 sh given be Mr John Chalmer for the releif of Cristian Balfour a ministers wyff.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 19, 1645.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symeson challenged for employeing doctor John Michaelson his brother in law to preache in Kirkcaldie kirk who is said to be deposed who confessed that he employed him bot denyed that he knew him to be deposed. The Presbytrie inhibits him to employ any heirafter who is not approven be the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie renewes thair suit to Mr Robert Douglas to supplie Kirkcaldie in preacheing. Half a dollar resaved from Kingorne for Cristian Balfour. Item a quarter a dollar from Leslie. Item half a dollar from Kinglessie. 24 sh from Skunie. 12 sh from Ballingrie. Mr Robert Cunningham produced ane warrand from the Parliament for a collectioun to be gathered from the kirks for the relief of David Balfour who is deteyned at Argier be the Turks. The brethren promeises diligence thairanent.

The Presbytrie enjoynes Isobell Arthur adultress with Thomas Neiving to mak hir repentance according to the order and gives warrand to Mr James Symeson to baptise hir bairne upon cautioun.

Ordeanes Henrie Cairns to ring the last bell to the exercise preciselie at the hour appoynted.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Bolton in Burntiland adulterer with Isobell Arnott: resaved his last injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *December* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr David Bennett in respect of his necessitie in goeing to Glasgow craved the brethrens testimonial of his tryells and behaviour heir whilk the brethren most willinglie grants to him. Compeired James Norman adulterer with Elspett Symson: resaved his last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 31.

The whilk day Mr John Jamieson handled the Cowmonhead *De Universali Redemptione.* 1 *Num Christus pro Omnibus et Singulis Mortuus Sit* and suffered disputatiouns thairupon and was approven be the brethren in both and is appoynted to be tryed in the tongues the nixt day viz, in the Hebrew Psalm 1, 2, 5, and in the Greik *ad aperturam libri* and to anser to his questiouns.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie for keiping a fast upon the 1 day of Februarii as also to try anent malignents and complyers with the enemie also to appoynt tuo of thair number to tak notice of the passages of Gods providence since the beginning of thir warrs. The brethren appoynts Mr John Smith and Mr John Moncreif for that effect.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Jamieson gave good contentment to the brethren in his Hebrew as he was appoynted and in his Greik the Epistle to Philemon: his questiouns continewed to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved ane letter from Mr Robert Douglas with 20 declaratiouns and 20 copies of the acts of parliament to be read and intimate . . . Mr John Jamieson was tryed in his questions and approven. Compeired William Smith in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved his first injunctiouns. Compeired also Catherine Lawrie in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Reference from the sessioun of Kirkcaldie anent the turning of the key: to be advysed anent the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 18, 1646.

The whilk day . . . . . James Murray granted himself paid for all former books. Item resaved 40 sh from Kirkcaldie and 20 sh from Portmook. A letter resaved from the Commissioners of the Estaites appoynting ane list of the widows of these who wer killed at the warrs to be given in to them aganest the first of April. The Presbytrie allows the continewatioun of Janet Wilsons repentance.

2 dollars resaved from Mr Alexr Moncreif for the Synod clerk. The Presbytrie appoynts the collectioun for the releif of David Balfour, John Cunningham, Adam Greig and Claud Pittinclein to be intimate the nixt Sabbath and to be exped aganest the Synod. Resaved from Auchterdirran for the Burser 4 lbs, from Auchtertule 4 Merks. Andro Allan and Janet Dick to be sowmonit to the nixt day for alledgit turning of the key.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Janet Dick and Andro Allan in Kirkcaldie both confessed the turning of the key; the said Andro affirming that ane John Fullarton a sailor he having told him that he wanted some moneys went to David Wood in Arbroith, a sailor also, and told him that Andro Allan wanted some money and desyred him to goe to him who came to him and taught and caused him to turn the key for it befoir tuo servands.

DYSERT, *March* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved from Dysert the names of the persons killed at the warrs with the names of thair widows and the number of the orphans.

Appoynts all the brethren who have not collecitit for the releif of David Balfour and his companie to doe it with diligence. Compeired Elspett Hutton quadrilapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Memorandum that Mrs John Moncreif and Frederik Carmichaell who wer the last that supplied the vacant kirks of the brethren now returned home from the warrs. The Laird of Balmowto being sowmoned to satisfie the kirk dicipline of Auchterdirran for fornicatioun committed be him with Kathren Symson and not obeying is ordeaned to be sowmoned, pro 2.

Compeired David Wood sailor, confessed he turned the key in Kirkcaldie, and that he learned it in ane English shipp where some of the companie wanting something they took the Byble and enclosed ane key into it and read the 50 psalm, at the 18 verse and named all the names in the shipp and when they lighted upon the man whom they suspected the key turned about. James Gibson and James Kay sailors in Kirkcaldie being also sowmoned witnesses thairto. Andro Allan and David Wood being confronted anent the turning of the key the said Andro declaired that he and David Wood turned the key in Margaret Laws houss in a chalmer themselfs alon whilk the said David denyed bot confessed that he told him all the forme how to doe it. The said Andro Allan affirmed it in his face and that

befoir John Mudie, James Gibsone and James Kay they being at thair morning drink together (thair being no speech of the turning of the key). They hard David Wood promeise to come to Andro Allans owne houss to him afternoon whilk tryst the said Andro Allan affirmed that he keipt and that they went to Margaret Laws chalmer together and turned the key thair, whilk all the same David denyed. The Presbytrie ordeanes the sessioun of Kirkcaldie to try John Mudie, James Gibson, and James Kay, anent the said mater and to desyre the magistrates of Kirkcaldie to tak and apprehend the said David Wood to mak him foorthcomeing till the mater be tryed.

DYSERT, *March* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie is continewed to this day fyftein dayes in respect of the commissioun to be holden at Lithgow the nixt weik where many of the brethren minds to be present. Mr Thomas Hogg sent his roll of the persons killed in his paroshe.

The brethren reported that they had intimate the act for collecting for David Balfour and his companie.

The Presbytrie ordeanes Mrs John Moncreif, John Smith and Harie Wilkie, to speak to Captain Alexr Hird anent these moneyes whilk wer collectit for the releif of Thomas Peirs and James Dauncier whilks he resaved upon his band that he maks them reallie to be forthcomeing for this use. The Laird of Balmowto being sowmonit, pro 2 for satisfing the kirk of Auchterdirran for his fornicatioun not obeying is ordeaned to be sowmonit, pro 3.

DYSERT, *April* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . The Laird of Balmowto being thryse privatlie sowmonit to satisfie for fornicatioun and not obeying the Presbytrie ordeanes Mr John Moncreif to sowmon him publiklie. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr Harie Wilkie to speak to Captain Alexander Hird in Kirkcaldie and to desyre him in thair names to delyver the odd money whilk rests in his hands over the principall sowme conteined in his band whilks wer collectit for the releif of the foir mentioned tuo captives to Janet Livingstone mother of Thomas Piers one of the tuo. Reference from the sessioun of Markinche anent Andro Birrell his scandelous behaviour with the ministers servand, drunkenness, blasphemie and upbraiding of his minister the Presbytrie ordeanes the said Andro to be wardit till he be sensible of his fault and find cautioun to satisfie as he sallbe ordeaned.

Ordeanes Janet Jolie in Leslie to sit one day upon the stool of publik repentance for hir whoorishe behaviour with Thomas Bennett thair. Somonds are directed from the commissioners of the kirk for sowmonding Mr James Donaldson to compeire befoir the Synod to declaire what he knows anent Mr David Orme, minister at Monymale. The brethren according to the laudable custome befoir the assemblie wer severallie removed for thair tryells and wer approven.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

April 15, 1646.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren reported that they had read the proclamatioun and declaratioun aganest the remonstrance of the Banders in the North.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 6.

The whilk day anent the chuseing of a Moderator, Mr John Smith, Mr Frederik Carmichell and Mr Patrik Gilespie being leited, Mr John Smith, was chosen be pluralitie of voyces. Compeired Janet Dick for turning of the key and ane new emergent breakeing forth aganest hir of turning the key since the first time upon occasioun that James Kininmonth wanted some money she is continewed to this day fyftein dayes and sowmoned *apud acta* thairto and James Kininmonth is appoynted to be sowmoned thairto and that mater tryed. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr James Symeson to read the declaratioun aganest the remonstrance of the Banders in the north and explaine the samyne in respect he had and not done it himself bot caused ane other read it and had spoken nothing of it. Compeired David Wood who confessed his guiltiness in turning the key both in teaching and practiseing the samyne. He is ordeaned to stand at the kirk durr in sackcloath, betwixt the tuo last belis to the preacheing upon the Sabbath and thairafter to goe to the place of publik repentance and to confess his fault publiklie and desyres the magistrates to ward him till he find cautioun to obey.

Ordeanes Mr John Moncrief to sowmon the Laird of Balmowto to satisfie the kirk of Auchterdirran for his fornicationn with Kathren Symson. Questioun what sallbe the censure of ane elder tuyse convict of drunkeness. Anser: he should be deposed. Questioun what sallbe be the censure of Ninian Muir elders who sat down upon his kneis and cursed his sonne: the Presbytrie refers him to the sessioun of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 20.

Compeired James Kininmonth who declaired that he haveing wanted some gold and his wyff haveing suspected Janet Dick to have tain it he went to hir and demandit hir anent it whilk she denyed and cursed him and he hard that she had turned the key for it and that it was one or tuo days after that she did it first and that it was in Margaret Mastersons houss who helped hir and that she read the psalm hirself and named hir owne name and the names of Margaret Lundie and Rachel Lamb and the said James Kininmonths name and that the key turned at the nameing of his name The said Janet is sowmonit *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day also Margaret Masterton and Margaret Neilsone servand to the said Janet who wer accessarie to the turning of the key to be sowmonit thairto. Andro Birrell in Markinche being tuyse sowmonit called, and not compeireing, is ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3, and Mr James Wilsone desyred to move the baillies of Dysert to urge his cautioner John Chalmer to pay the penaltie and to causs the said Andro to give obedience.

Mr John Moncreif reported that he had sowmoned the Laird of Balmowto to obey the kirk dicipline of Auchterdirran and that Balmowto had ansered the said

Mr John publiklie that he thought that he had given him satisfactioun thairanent: ordeanes him to be sowmonit pro 2, and also to sowmon him literatorie to compeire befoir the Presbytrie for his ansering in the kirk except he give satisfactioun to the sessioun of Kingorne thairanent. Anent the purgeing of the elders of sessiouns and the faulters for transgressing the Sabbath referred to the nixt day. John Wyllie ruleing elder for Auchtertule excused himself for his absence from the Synod. Compeired James Brown in Leslie compleineing upon Mr Thomas Blak his minister in thir words:—To your Godlie W. humblie meins and compleins James Brown upon Mr Thomas Blak minister who hes slandered my dochter Jean Brown and says that if it be true that is spoken of hir she deserves burning. Justice for God his causs.

Sic Subscribitur,

J. Brown.

The said Mr Thomas declaired that he hard a great slander of the said Jean that thre troopers should have layen with hir everie one after ane other and that he desyred one of his elders to try the samyne privatelie whilk was all he did whilk the said James Brown confessed bot that the elder divulged the samyne.

The Presbytrie finds James Brown to have wronged his minister whom they judge to have behaved himself as became ane minister of Christ and thairfoir ordeanes the said James Brown to confess his fault befoir the sessioun of Leslie the nixt Sabbath and Mr Thomas Melvill to preache thair the said day and ordeanes Mr Thomas Blak to try the said slander to the uttermost.

Anent the chuseing of commissioners to the Generall Assemblie Mrs John Smith John Moncrief, John Chalmer, Patrik Gilespie and Alex Moncreif, wer nominate and leited and Mr John Smith, Mr John Moncreif and Mr Patrik Gilespie, wer chosen commissioners be pluralitie of voyces and the Laird of Fingask ruleing elder. The Presbytrie resumeing into thair consideratioun the process of Mr James Symeson broken off be the troubles of the times and finding that the minute containing his confessioun of certain expressiouns in his sermon after the visitatioun of the kirk of Kirkcaldie whereupon the Presbytrie did challenge him was lost and the said Mr James being present and questioned wold not confess the samyne agane did thairfoir sowmon him *apud acta* to the nixt day to anser whither he uttered the speeches alledgit spoken be him.

Dysert, *Maii* 27, 1646.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Masterson spouse to Thomas Bowman in Kirkcaldie who confessed that Janet Dick turned the key in hir houss and named the names of Margaret Lundie, Rachell Lamb, hirself, and James Kininmonth.

Compeired also Margaret Neilson confessed she saw Janet Dick turn the key tuyse, once in hir owne houss and once in Margaret Mastersons and that the said Margarets sonne held the key with the said Janet Dick. Margaret Masterson also affirmed that Helen Chrystie told hir that Janet Dick offered to Beatrix Gedd to turn the key for trying something lost. The Presbytrie in respect of this new emergent continews hir censure till the mater be further tryed be the sessioun of

Kirkcaldie and all the foirsaids persons sowmoned *apud acta* to compeire whenever they sallbe advertysed.

Compeired John Kennedie late provost of Ayr who presented ane supplicatioun in his owne name and in name and behalf of the town and parochine of Ayr together with ane commissioun for that effect and a letter subscryved be the present provost and baillies and another from the Presbytrie of Ayr craveing that Mr Patrik Gilespie may be transported from Kirkcaldie to Ayr. The Presbytrie takeing the mater to consideratioun called in upon the said John and declaired that they could doe nothing for the present till they had ordeaned the parochiners and all others haveing interest to be sowmonit for thair interest whereupon the said John gave in ane appellatioun to the Generall Assemblie whilk the Presbytrie refused to accept and he leaveing the samyne departed. A letter resaved from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie ordeaneing ministers who ar appoynted to repair to the armie that they repair thither within fyftein dayes after intimatioun is maid thairof to them under the paine of suspensioun. 2 Anent the supplie of the ministers of Ireland. 3 Anent the rolls of the widows and orphans of the persons killed in the warrs. 4 Anent the censureing of malignants and lastlie anent James Murrays pay. Compeired Andro Birrell in Markinche whose whoreish behaviour, drunkeness, blasphemie and upbraiding of his minister all confessed be himself and being pondered be the brethren they ordeane him to stand at the kirk durr of Markinche, upon Sonday nixt betwixt the tuo last bells to the forenoons sermon in sackcloath and to sitt upon the stoole of publik repentance all the time of the forenoons sermon in that same habit and to confess his fault and crave God pardon for it and appoynts Mr Alexander Moncreif to preache in Markinche the said day and resave him.

Mr John Chalmer reported that the Laird of Balmowto had begun his repentance at the kirk of Auchterdirran. Report is maid that James Brown in Leslie had obeyed the P resbytries suit. Margaret Wallace in Kingorne being convict befoir the sessioun for syndrie and divers malignant speeches ordeaned to be brought befoir the Presbytrie. Compeired Bessie Symson in Kirkcaldie who affirmed that David Miller thair lay with hir thrie severall times about the space of eleven or tuelf years since and that he was father to that bairne that she brought forth at that time whilk she fathered upon a soldier and that befoir Fastings Even last 14 days he lay with hir once at his owne hodderstack betwixt five and six hours at even she comeing by his barn. The said David also compeiring deyned all : the mater remitted to further tryell. Compeired Helen Dryburgh in Weyms trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired Isobell Hutton in Portmook adultress with Thomas Young : resaved hir first injunctiouns. Commissioner chosen for the Generall Assemblie :—for the town of Burntiland Georg Gardens, for Kingorne Mr Dav Weyms, for Kirkcaldie Thomas Whyte, for Dysart Thomas Richardson, all approven be the Presbytrie and appoynts the Moderator to subscryve thair commissions and no Presbytrie to meitt till after the riseing of the said Assemblie. Mr James Symeson being questioned concerning these particulars confessed be him in face of the presbytrie bot lost be reason of the troubles of the

time refused to confess as he wold not deny them bot said he acknowledged it was a good providence that they wer lost whereupon the Presbytrie appoynts witnesses to be sowmonit, viz John Williamson, Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie and Mr Andro Pitcairne to depone on the particulars the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Junii* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the suit of John Kennedie of Ayr at the Generall Assemblie for transportatioun of Mr Patrik Gilespie from Kirkcaldie to Ayr becauss his appellatioun susteined not at the Generall Assemblie and he not compeireing befoir the Presbytrie to prosecute his supplicatioun the mater deserted. Mr John Smith, Moderator, reported ane discharge subscryvit be Georg Porterfield of the sum of 242 lbs resaved from this Presbytrie for the releif of distressed ministers recommended be the Commissioners of the Kirk, viz for the ministers of Argyle and Mr Thomas Ireland. These who have not given in thair rolls of the persons killed at the warrs with thair widows and orphans appoynted to bring them.

Mr Alexander Moncreif reported that Andro Birrell in Markinche had obeyed the Presbytries ordinance aganest him and that Mr Fred Carmichaell had preached for him at Skunie. Mr John Chalmer reported that the Laird of Balmowto had fulfilled his repentance in the Kirk of Auchterdirran for his fornicatioun committed with Kathren Symson. He is appoynted to be further dealt with for his speaking in the kirk viz that he acknowledge his fault aither befoir the sessioun or in his own seatt and in caise of refusall to be brought befoir the Presbytrie. Mr James Symeson being sowmoned the last *apud acta* to compeire this day: called: compeired not: to be sowmoned to the nixt day peremptorie and the witnesses to be sowmoned thairto.

Mr Patrik Gilespie regraiting that thair is a scandel of difference betwixt Mr James Symeson and him desyres the mater to be tryed be the Presbytrie that the causs wherefrom it comes may be known and it may be removed.

The Presbytrie approves the motioun the scandel never once being mentioned to them befoir and appoynts Mrs John Smith, Thomas Melvill, Robert Bruce, Ministers; and Balquharg ruleing elder to meitt at Kirkcaldie, Monday nixt, at 3 hours for tryeing of the said mater and such of the elders of Kirkcaldie as had been present at the appoyntment of the kirk sessioun thair in a conference betwixt the foirsaid brethren be warnit also to be present at the said meitting of the foirnamed committie. Memorandum to advyse anent the Kirk of Portmook. Anent Andro Beans and his wyff the Presbytrie thinks meitt that they be dealt with and reconciled. Henrie Darney in Bogie appoynted to be warnit to the sessioun of Auchterdirran to satisfie for his fornicatioun committed thair. Item, one Bessie Main to be sowmoned to the sessioun of Kingorne and Violet Moneye to be sowmonit to the sessioun of Auchtertule. Memorandum — to think upon some courss for the restraining of drinking upon the Sabbath afternoon.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Janet Dick hir twyse turning of the key the

Presbytrie ordeans hir to sit one day upon the place of publik repentance in sackcloath and acknowledge hir fault and Margaret Masterson being accessorie thairto the second time to acknowledge hir fault befoir the sessioun and Margaret Neilson also in thair owne habite.

Compeired Margaret Wallace in Kingorne for uttering some malignant speeches viz, I would be content to goe through Scotland with a sheet about me that Montroise wer heir and that thair wer not a living man in Kingorne because hir husband was killed. Ordeaned to acknowledge hir fault befoir the pulpett in Kingorne either in sheet or sackcloath as the minister and sessioun of Kingorne sall find hir sensible.

Mr James Symeson compeireing, challanged anent some speeches uttered be him in a sermon after the visitatioun of the Kirk of Kirkcaldie the mater being proponed to him aither to confess or deny: he refused.

The brethren proceeds to probatioun be witnesses, viz John Williamson, Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie, Mr Andro Pitcairne, who being admitted and sworn deponed as follows:—viz, John Williamson deponed he remembered nothing of that expression that men might not come so heigh nowadays as to reprove the sinnes of great men. In the rest of the expressiouns depones as is lybellit viz that he had been challanged for bringing things to the pulpett upon heirsay bot he knew better what he spoke in the chayre of veritie and was now to mak his apologie which was that he wold justifie all that he had spoken and byde be it; onlie that as he remembers the said Mr James said not ar they not witless men that say the Revelatioun should not be preached, bot, ar they not witless that say the Revelatioun may not be preached. Mr Andro Pitcairne deponed that he hard all the expressiouns that wer lybelled. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie deponed he hard all the expressiouns alledgit bot doubted concerning the time when they wer spoken whidder befoir or after the visitatioun, yit thinks upon longer consideratioun he might come to be resolvit of his doubt herein. The nixt day of the Presbytrie is assignit to the said Mr Thomas to give a resolute anser anent the time and is sowmonit *apud acta* for that effect . . . Compeired Isobell Aiken in Kinglessie quadrilapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns. The Erle of Seyfoorthe his excommunicatioun to be intimate in all the kirks of the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 10.

The whik day . . . . . Compeired David Miller who denyed his adulterie as befoir: the mater remitted to further tryell. Compeired Kathren Gairdens trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Mr William Fairfull to be remembered to enter upon the exercise. Mr Thomas Kirkcaldie called upon declaired that he now remembered the expressiouns anent which he deponed the last day wer spoken be Mr James Symeson after the visitatioun of Kirkcaldie. The whilk day also the Presbytrie taking the depositiouns of the severall witnesses to thair consideratioun finds the whole expressiouns alledgit to have been spoken by the said Mr James Symeson in pulpett after the visitatioun to be cleirlie proven and thairfoir proceeds.

The Presbytrie having gravelie considered and seriouslie pondered the expressiouns of Mr James Symeson minister at Kirkcaldie uttered in face of the Presbytrie at the visitatioun of Kirkcaldie, viz that the Presbytries proceeding according to the foirnamed act of the Provincial Synod was a noveltie and affirmed that it was never inacted be the Synod because said he it was never voyced and thairfoir was not an act nor could have the strength of an act upon which occasioun he called the Directorie a noveltie also, and that it was carried the same way and what wold you have said, said he, if bishops had done so, affirming moreover that he knew some that had voyced in a Generall Assemblie that had no commissioum and his expressiouns in preaching after the visitatioun whilk ar found to be sufficientlie proven and doe reflex and cast aspersiouns upon the proceedings of the Presbytrie towards him in the foirmentioned visitatioun viz, that men might not now come so heigh as to reprove the sinnes of great men ; that he had been challanged for bringing things to the pulpett upon heirsay bot he knew better what he spake in the chayre of veritie and was now to mak his apologie which was that he wold justifie all that he had spoken and byde be it and further ar they not witless men that say the Revelatioun should not be preached and is not pertinent for this time doe judge these former expressiouns to deserve a high and heavie censure yit having regard to the said Mr James his age and long standing in the ministrie and desyreing to win him to be more considerate in his expressiouns both in Presbytrie and pulpett doe appoynt him upon his knies befoir the Presbytrie to crave God pardon for these his rash inconsiderate and offensive expressiouns tending to the discredit of the Generall Assemblie of this kirk and of the Provincial Assemblie of Fyff with express certificatioun that if the said Mr James sallbe found heirafter to transgress in this or the lyke kind what hath been so easilie passed at this time sall accress to the agravatioun of his censure and with express declaratioun that if he sall not acquiess thairto and give obedience to this thair sentence the Presbytrie sall be frie to proceid to his censure according to the degree of his deserving as though they had passed no sentence. Sicklyk the samyne day the report being maid anent the scandel of difference betuein the ministers of Kirkcaldie the Presbytrie haveing hard and considered the report of the committie appoynted to try and tak notice of the ryse of the said difference and calling to mind what themselfs knew doe judge that the causs of the present difference does flow from too much credulitie in Mr James Symeson and thairfoir he is gravelie to be admonished and both the ministers to be powerfully exhorted in the name of Jesus to return to that way of living together which becomes collegues in the ministrie. The Presbytrie upon good and weightie consideratiouns thought good to suspend thair sentence concerning Mr James Symeson his expressiouns in Presbytrie and pulpett and continew the scandel of differenee betuien him and his collegue untill thair meitting againe in this place on Wednesday the 22 of Julii.

DYSERT, *Julii* 18, 1646

The whilk day . . . . . Memorandum to chuse a Moderator the nixt day in respect of Mr John Smith his absence now in Ingland and to advyse anent the visitatiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer is chosen Moderator for this day. Mr James Symeson his last days excused in respect of sickness sommonit *apud acta* to appear in Dysert the nixt day to heir his sentence. Compeired Janet Dick for hir misbehaviour upon the stoole of repentance the last sabbath : summonit *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day. The superplus of the moneyes in Captain Hirds hands that wer collected for the captives ordeaned to be given to Christian Livingstone.

DYSERT, *Julii* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Frederik Carmichaell is chosen Moderator till the nixt assemblie. The Presbytrie appoynts the Kirk of Ballingrie to be visited the nixt day and Mr Joshua Meldrom to preache their. Anent Janet Dick hir misbehaviour upon the stoole of repentance in Kircaldie in replying and answering agane the Presbytrie ordeans hir to sit on the stoole the next Sabbath in her owne habite and confess that fault and the Sabbath thairafter in sackcloath and then to be resaved. Mr James Symson resaveing his sentence craves a full copie that he may be advysit thairanent the next day.

BALLINGRIE, *August* 5, 1646.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Ballingrie holden within the paroshe Kirk of the samyne be Mr Frederik Carmichaell, Moderator . . . . . Edict returned indorsat with the names of the heretors and elders. The minister removed for his tryells the elders sworn severallie to declaire thair judgements anent him. James Scrimgeor found that he thought his ministrie weak, yea verie weak, and that he was slow enough in visiting the sick approved him in all other things. John Greig, James Robertson, James Bedson, John Steidman, Robert Meldrom, David Readdie, Patrick Martin approved him in all things ; John Paterson affirmed that he was of a weak memorie and slow gift. The Presbytrie finding by the depositioun of tuo Elders being desiderative of edificatioun that they ar no so edified as they wold wish finds that he should be admonished to tak more pains to edifie his people, and withall the Presbytrie certifies him that they will tak some courss to try what ground these tuo hes for them whilk they did intimate to him at his return. The minister lykeways, being sworn befoir the Elders to declaire what he knew of them declaired that James Scrimgeor was often drunk and that he contemnes the sacrament of the Lords Supper for the communion being celebrate and he not communicateing he was challenged thairfoir who answerit I was drunk at Edr and I maid a vowe not to drink wyne till such a time, also that he troubled the Elders and had not been his hearer for tuo or thrie years and wishes him to be admonished, also of John Paterson that he enterteynes folk drinking in his houss upon the Sabbaths efternoon and of the rest they wer to be admonished to have a greater caire to tell him of the sick in the paroshe that he may visit them and to delate vyce mor diligentlie and to hold hand to discipline. James Scrimgeor returning is sharplie rebuked and gravelie admonished to behave himself better, also desired to keip his owne paroshe Kirk.

John Paterson is admonished to abstein from breaking the Sabbath heirafter by selling of drink.

The Elders returning ar admonished anent thair duties. Mr Alexander Moncreif is appoynted to repair to the armie at Newcastel within fyftein dayes. Anent Mr James Symesons obedience to the decreit given out against him he is ordeaned aither to grant to give obedience thairto this day fyftein dayes or els to refuse.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Moncreif being presentlie to repaire to the armie as he was appoynted Mr Joshua Meldrome is appoynted to preach at Skunie the nixt Sabbath. The meitting of the brethren appoynted to be at Dysert the nixt day and all maters Presbyterial referred thairto in respect of the absence of many.

DYSERT, *August* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The appoynted Mr Patrick Gillespie to preache at Burntiland the nixt Sabeath and Mr Thomas Melville at Skunie and referrs all Presbyterial business to the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Symeson is appoynted to declaire himself the nixt day whither he will give obedience to the sentence him or not.

Mr Harie Pitcairnie appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day for fornicatioun committed be him.

David Miller and Bessie Symeson to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *September* 9.

The whilk day . . . . A letter resaved from the commissioners of the kirk at Edr appoynting a fast to be keipt upon the 3 Sabbath of September to be intimate the nixt Sabbath togither with 14 Copies of the acts of the Generall Assemblie and causes of the first at 2 groats the 2. Memorandum to advertyse Mr Edmund Cranstown to keip the Presbytrie.

Compeired Mr Harie Pitcairne who humblie acknowledged his sinne of fornicatioun: suspendit from preaching till he have endit his repentance and thairafter to come to the Presbytrie. Compeired David Miller and Bessie Symeson the said Bessie now as befoir affirming him to be hir bairnes father he still denying all: both sowmonit *apud acta* to be present the nixt day.

Compeired Kathren Symson trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Isobell Arnott adultress with William Bolton in Burntiland: resaved hir last injunctiouns. The Presbytrie grants yit one day to Mr James Symeson to advyse anent his obedience to the Presbytries sentence aganest him with certificatioun as effeirs.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Edmund Cranstowne compeireing is appoynted to

preache at Skunie the nixt Sabbath and exhorted to keip the Presbytrie better. 2 groats resaved from Mr Joshua Meldrum for the copies of the acts of the Generall Assemblie and the causes of the fast, 2 groats also from Mr Pat Gilespie. Mr James Symeson gave in his declaratioun by wreate under his hands as follows :— Concerning my words for the whilk my brethren have censured me I do ingenouslie and trulie confess that I uttered them in a sinfull passione and in so doing offended God and I am sorrie for it and heartlie desyre God to forgive me. I am also sorie for giveing offence to my brethren and I am resolved be the help of Gods grace not to doe the lyk heirafter.

Sic Subscribitur,

MR JAMES SYMESON.

As also maid his confessioun by word in face of the Presbytrie acknowledging that the Presbytrie had just reason to censure him. The Presbytrie considering his subscryvit declaratioun and verball confession though they desiderate something of that which they expected yit haveing regaird to his old age and long standing in the ministrie rest satisfied thairwith and concerning the rise of diffirence betwen the ministers did shew him that they found his too great credulitie to be a great occasioun thairof and did exhort them both to that loving way of living togither as becomes the ministers of the Gospel. The Presbytrie also taking to thair consideratioun what they resolved on at Ballingrie concerning Mr Robert Bruce to wit to try upon what grownd these tuo elders had compleined that they wer not edified be his preacheing resolved to send Mr John Moncreif and Sr James Melvill, Mr Joshua Meldrome and Inchdairnie now and then at thair owne convenience to goe to the kirk of Ballingrie to heir Mr Robert Bruce his way of preacheing and to report thair judgment thairanent to the Presbytrie which resolutioun, Mr Robert Bruce heartlie approved and desyred to be followed. Resaved from John Wyllie in name of the sessioun of Auchtertule the sum of 22 lbs 15 sh for releif of the captives. The whilk day also compeired David Miller and Bessie Symeson the said Bessie affirming all hir former confessiouns in presence of the said David she resaved hir first injunctiouns. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that the first time that she enters the place of publik repentance she and the said David sallbe called upon and instructed in the nature of ane oath befoir the pulpett bot not to take his oathe till afterwards.

Resaved a ticket of resait and a discharge from Margaret Rynd of the sum of 15 dollars resaved be hir from Mr Fred Carmichaell in name of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie having resaved ane act of commissioun of the Generall Assemblie ordeaning them to give in a roll of the commissioun of the shyre and counsells of Burghs of all such as hes complyed with the rebels and hes not given satisfactioun to the kirk and finding that my Lord Register is not cleired by any ecclesiastic judicatorie for the scandell of his complyance thairfoir thinks themself oblyged be the foirsaid act to give in his name to the gentrie of the shyre. Mr George Ogilvie having tryed the sessioun book of

Ballingrie declaired that he fownd many oversights in it for the whilk Mr Robert Bruce was scharplie rebuked and admonished to have greater caire in time comeing. The brethren, according to the laudable custome befoir the Assemblie, wer severallie removed for thair tryells and approven. Mr James Symeson was censured for interponing the singing of the psalm between the reading and the exponeing of the chapter.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

Couper 7, October 1646, whilk book produced and examined. Mr Eben Smithe.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 14, 1646.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie considering that the nixt day four of thair number ar appoynted be the Provincial Assemblie to be at Carnock and the weik following the fast is to be observed thairfoir continews thair nixt meitting till this day thrie weiks.

The Presbytrie haveing resaved a sufficient testimonial from the Presbytrie of Haddington the place of Mr Norman Leslie his last residence they ar satisfied with it and admitts him to enter upon the publik exercise. Concerning the scandell of My Lord Register his complyence with the rebells, the Presbytrie ordeans Mr James Wilsone to enquyre of the Lord Register how his Lordschipp can cleir himself of the scandell and to make his report to the nixt meitting. Concerning the letter from the Presbytrie of Edr for tryell of the alledgit scandell betwixt one Effie Allison and William Dowie in Oarsmilles the Presbytrie remitts the samyne to the sessioun of Dysert. The Presbytrie considering the multiplied relapses of salters in Sabbath breaking and how frequentlie they have mocked God with simulating publik repentance doe still live in profanatioun of the Lords day, and that they ar now become regardless of the form of thair satisfactioun befoir pulpetts, doe thairfoir ordeane that after intimatioun heirof the salter that sall persist in Sabbath breaking being lawfullie convict of the samyne sall mak thairfoir repentance in the publik place appoynted for the resaveing of penitents, and to double thair dayes of appeireing befoir the congregatioun according to the proportioun keipt in the resaveing of others relapsed scandalous persons and that they be heirby expresslie suspendit from the sacrament of the Lords Supper till such time as the give proof of thair reall reformatioun, and this the Presbytrie thinks verie necessar for the terror and shame of such impudent and obstinate offenders.

DYSERT, *November* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Wilson reported from the Lord Register that he had ane act of the Generall Assemblie under the Clerks hand, recommending to Presbytries no further to questioun any person absolvit be the judge competent, bot that he saw it not, thairfoir the Presbytrie recommends to Mr John Moncreif to desyre the sight of the Registers absolvitor. According to the act of the Provincial Assemblie, the brether ar appoynted to enter to try the particular families in thair paroshes, and to report thair diligence betwixt and the first meitting of nixt month.

Mr Dav Colt, sometime a minister of Ireland giving in ane petitioun for support, the brether promeises to bring thair supplie to him this day fyftein dayes, also to help Agnes Leslie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Olyphant being desyrous to enter upon the exercise, the brether appoynts him for his first tryell, Text 1, Peter 2, 10, to handell privatelie.

DYSERT, *Novem* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie advyses Mr Robert Bruce to advertyse James Keltie of his misbehaviour in Ballingrie and changeing of his name to leave the parochine of Ballingrie for his eskeaping further inconvenience, and if he refuse, to sowmon him befoir the Presbytrie.

Compeired William Smith in Burntiland, trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved his last injunctiouns.

Resaved from Mr Thomas Melvill for the Burser, 8 merks. Item for the Clerk to the Synod 4 merks. Item for Mr Dav Colt and Agnes Leslie, a dollar delyverit. Item delyverit to Mr Dav Colt for Kirkcaldie, 2 dollars. Item to Agnes Leslie for Burntiland, 2 dollars. Item delyverit to Mr Dav Colt for Weyms, a rex dollar. Item to Agnes Leslie for Weyms, a rex dollar.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 25, 1646.

The whilk day anent the woman in Weyms whose husband went from hir twenty four years since who is constantlie affirmed to be dead the Presbytrie continews thair anser to the nixt day. Resaved from Auchtertule 32 sh delyverit to Mr Dav Colt. Item for Auchterdirran 30 sh. Item for Leslie 30 sh. Item from Auchterdirran for Agnes Leslie 28 sh. Item from Mr Thomas Blak 30 sh delyverit to hir.

DYSERT, *December* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the woman in Weyms whose husband went from hir twenty four years since who is certainlie affirmed to be dead, she craveing the benefit of mariage the Presbytrie thinks the minister of Weyms may give hir the benefit of mariage. Anent the letter from Edr for trying the slander of Effie Allison, the minister of Markinch reports that he tryed that one William Dowie dwelling at the bridge of Oar about six or seven years since some women strangers lodging thair one night the said William Dowie went out and lay with some of them. Item for Agnes Leslie 20 sh.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . William Cunningham in Kingorne being thryce called and not compeiring is declaired to be contumax and ordeaned to be sowmoned publiklie under the paine of excommunicatioun.

Compeired James Robertson in Kingorne adulterer with Margaret Greig : resaved his first injunctiouns. The brethren in respect of the shortness of the day

and the foulness of the weather adjournayes the Presbytrie to this day fyftein days to meitt at Dysert.

Reference in Dysert anent ane woman who hes brought forth ane bairne long since whilk is dead unbaptised, continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *December* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired David Miller anent the slander of adulterie put upon him be Bessie Symeson he standing still to his denyal; continewed to this day fyftein dayes. Mr Frederik Carmichael reported that Mr Thomas Hogg declaired to him that Mr Harie Pitcairne had abundantlie satisfied his congregatioun for his fornicatioun, and was resaved.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Kathren Chalmer in Kingorne trelapse in fornicatioun and lastlie adultress with John Seggie there: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Margaret Grig in Kingorne adulteress with James Robertson there: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Ane act for observatioun of the Sabbath appoynted to be publiklie read in all the kirks of the Presbytrie whereof the tenor followeth:—The Presbytrie considering the great profanatioun of the Lords day notwithstanding the former acts maid aganest the profaners thairof doe thairfoir judge it necessarie to mak particular enumeratioun of such profanatiouns as wer most cowmon within the bounds of the said Presbytrie, and not expressed in former acts such as goeing about any civill business, abroad in other congregatiouns or at home in thair owne upon the Lords day, the setting of horses for hyre or travelling homewards with these horses that have been sett the goeing to taverns or alehouses betwixt or after the sermons within the towns or places of peoples ordinarie residence, and for all others the drinking of that which is beyond necessarie refreshment or mispending time lairglie sitting and tippling beyond the time necessarie for the refreshment and this to strik aganest the sellers of the drink as weill as the buyers thairof in manner foirsaid, the vaiging abroad, sitting or walking idle upon the streets and fields whereby the sanctifying of the Sabbath in families is utterlie neglectit and the occassioun of idle and wordlie conference fostered, and ordeanes the transgressors foirsaid to be censured in manner following:—For the first fault to be convened befoir the sessioun and confess thair fault—for the second befoir the congregatioun—for the third to be suspendit from the Lords supper ay and whill they give testimonie of reformatioun.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 20, 1647.

The whilk day . . . . . Compiered William Cunningham for ansering the minister in the Kirk, disobedience to the session and Presbytrie standing out to the last publik warning and misbehaviour: remitted to the magistrates to be wardit till he find cautioun to give obedience. Ane act resaved from the commissiouns of the Kirk for the releiveing of Argyle. The mater remitted be the Presbytrie to the particular congregatiouns bot first to bring in thair contributiouns collected for the

captives of the Turks and thairafter to intimate the said act. Compeired Isobell Hutton in Portmook adulteress with Thomas Young : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

KIRCALDIE, *Februarii* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired William Cunningham in Kingorne for his disobedience and misbehaviour to the sessioun of Kingorne and Presbytrie : ordeaned to come befoir the pulpett in sackcloath and confess his fault in respect of his fault and disobedience to the uttermost who promises to give obedience. Mr John Smith being appoynted to goe to Ingland at the disbanding of the armie craves be his letter that his place be supplyed till his return the brether promises so to doe and for that effect appoynts Mr John Moncreif to preache at Burntiland first and Mr Blak the Sabbath after him. These who hes collectit for the captives ar appoynted to bring in thair moneys the nixt day. Mr Alexander Moncreif is appoynted to goe to Cuper and there with the Presbytrie to revive the motioun for supplying the necessitie of these widows who had thair husbands killed in the warrs. The brethren promises diligence in thair collectioun for Argyle.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 10, 1647.

The whilk day . . . . . all the brethren reported that they had mad intimatioun of the collectioun for Argyle.

Hew Turners petition for the baptising of his bairne being read the brethren remitts him to the last place where his bairne was baptised. Mr Alexander Moncreif reported his diligence at Cuper, anent the motioun for relief of the widows who had thair husbands killed at the war bot could not tell what it wold work.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 17

The whilk day. . . . . Compeired Helen Robertson in Weyms, adulteress with Patrik Mathieson : resaved hir last injunctions. Compeired John Davidson in Kircaldie confessed adulterie with Margaret Thomson his servand : resaved his first injunctions. The brether appoynts David Millar to be convened befoir them the nixt day and if he persists is his denyall to frame ane oathe to him and delyver the sayme to him to be advysed with eight days.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Isobell Aikine in Kinglessie quadrilapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctions. John Bissett also in Weymes trelapse resaved his last injunctions.

The whilk day also compiered John Seggie in Kingorne adulterer with Kathren Chalmers confessed be him : resaved his first injunctions.

KIRCALDIE, *March* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Bessie Mayne who having been scandelous in the paroshe of Kingorne and adding to hir scandell disobedience and contumacie to the discipline of the Kirk who being upon the place of publik repentance to

confess hir fault she said she was not there for any fault bot onlie for malice and envie : ordeaned to sit other tuo dayes upon the said place and confess hir fault and this last also.

The brethren ordeanes these who hes collected for Argyle to bring in thair collectiouns the nixt day and these who hes not collect to hasten it. The Presbytrie thinks that David Tough who hes deserted his lawfull wyff Margaret Balmanno and now maried upon another in Ingland should be proceided aganest and sowmonit at the croce of Edr peir and shoir of Leyth to compeire and mak satisfactioun.

Compeired Bessie Henrieson trelapse in fornication: resaved hir first injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *March* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired David Miller who having resaved the forme of his oathe in writt to be advysed with and now being resolved to sweare the Presbytrie appoynts his oathe to be taken the nixt Sabbath in Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 17, 1647.

The whilk day . . . . . Report is maid that David Miller had purged himself be his great oathe the last Sabbath of the adulterie alledgit upon him be Bessie Symeson. 28 sh resaved from Mr John Smith for James Murray and the books Item from Mr Patrik Gilespie for the books 8 sh.

DYSERT, *March* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . John Forbes being sowmonit for some maliginent speechs uttered be him : called : compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

Resaved from Kingorne for the Burser 10 lbs. Item from Kinglessie for James Murray, 28 sh.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Forbes : sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire this day fyftein dayes in Kirkcaldie. The brethren and ruleing elders according to the laudable custome befoir the Provincial Assemblie wer removed for thair censure, and wer all approven.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 14.

The whilk day . . . . Ruleing elders nominate, for Kinglessie the Laird of Caskybarrian, for Auchtertule the young Laird of Halyairds, for Portmook Kirkness, for Kingorne Tarbett.

Compeired John Forbes in Dysert for some malignent speeches proven aganest him bot in respect of the paucitie of the meitting continewed : sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day, also the chuseing of the Moderator, continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *April* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrome be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Assemblie,

Compeired John Forbes for many vyld abbominable and malignent speeches uttered be him and proven aganest him befoir the sessioun of Dysert in his drunkeness confessed be him, and whilk he could not deny; the Presbytrie ordeanes him to confess his fault befoir the pulpett of Dysert upon the Sabbath in sackcloath.

Resaved from Mr Patrik Gilespie a note of the moneyes resaved be him whilk wer collectit for the relief of the distressed people of Argyle the particulars whereof follows :—

In primis from Kirkcaldie 435 lbs, from Kingorne 177 lbs 16 sh, from Burntiland 160 lbs, from Dysert 134 lbs 5 sh, from Weyms 200 lbs 4 sh, and from Auchterdirran 87 lbs 19 sh, from Leslie 50 lbs 17 sh 6d, from Portmook 60 lbs 15 sh 8d, from Ballingrie 40 lbs, from Auchtertule 20 lbs, from Kinglessie 91 lbs 10 sh, from Markinche 157 lbs. *Summa* 1694 lbs 6 sh 8d. The whilk day also Mr Patrik Gilespie also produced ane ticket of resait and discharge of the saids moneyes from James Stewart, Merchand in Edr, resaver of said moneyes whereof the tenor follows :—I, James Stewart, merchand in Edr grants me to have resaved from Mr Patrik Gilespie, minister at Kirkcaldie, the sum of ane thousand six hundreth fourscoir and fourteen lbs six shillings eight pennies scots, as the collectioun of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, Burgh, and landward for the distressed people of Argyle whereof I grant the resait and discharges him according to the power given me be the Commissioun of the Generall Assemblie under my hand at Edr the 14 of April 1647.

Sic Subscribitur,

JA. STEWART.

Item the said Mr Patrik produced ane ticket of resait of the sum of fourscoir twelve punds sixtein shillings from Leivetenant Collonells Brysens relict whereof the tenor follows :—

Edr 14 April, 1647. Resaved be me, Janet Dunbar, relict of Umqll Leivetenent Collonell Brysen, from Mr John Smith in name of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie the sum of four scoir twelve punds sixtein shillings collected be the said Mr John Smith for hir use be thir presents subscribed be my hand day and place foirsaid befoir thir witnesses James Murray and Hew Craig.

Sic Subscribitur,

JANET DUNBAR.
JAMES MURRAY, *Witness.*
HEW CRAIG, *Witness.*

Item resaved ane letter of recommendatioun from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie in favours of Mr James Kirk, minister at Dunblean, whose haill substance is utterlie spoiled be the rebells recommending him to the charitie of the brethren: promeises to contribute for supplying his necessitie. Anent the Commissioners who ar to meitt at Aberdein, viz. Mr Patrik Gilespie, Mr John Moncreif and Mr John Smith, thair places ar appoynted to be supplyed in maner following viz. Mr John Chalmer, Mr Fred Carmichaell, and Mr Rob Bruce ar appoynted to supplie Kirkcaldie for thrie Sabbaths, Mr Josua Meldrome, Mr James Wilsone and

Mr Alexander Moncreif for Kingorne, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Georg Ogilvie, and Mr Harie Wilkie for Burntiland.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margarie Pratt parochiner of Kirkcaldie whose bairne is yit unbaptised fathered upon James Stirk whereof the said James purged himself befoir his death. The brethren thinks she should be urged be the magistrates to declaire the truth as yit not declaired and to be wardit for that effect.

The said day compeired Isobell Thomson for communicating in Faulkland being under the slander of witchcraft: acknowledged hir fault: inhibited to doe so from henceforth until order be taine be the Generall Assemblie with such persons. Some acts anent the admitting of elders purging of sessiouns etc, ordeaned to be registrat in the Presbytrie book. 1. Anent giveing of testmonials that the carriage of the parties who craves them be enquyred of the sessioun and that no testimonial be given without thair advyce thairof. 2. Secondlie, anent the publicatioun of bannes that the order appoynted in the Directorie page 48 be observed. 3. Thirdlie anent penitents upon the place of publik repentance it is thought expedient that the minister speak frequentlie to them befoir the congregatioun and not onlie at the time of thair resaveing and that they be not resaved without a confessioun of the particular offence. 4. Fourthlie anent the forme of admitting elders that they be chosen be the sessioun; that intimatioun of thair electioun be maid befoir the congregatioun with libertie to any to object to them befoir the sessioun at a day assigned; that thair admissioun be solum in the presence of the congregatioun with exhortatioun and prayer. 5. Whereas the third Wednesday of Junii is appoynted be the last Provincial Assemblie for a solemn humiliatioun throughout the province becauss of the increase of drunkeness and uncleaness and other sinnes proceiding partlie from the neglect of elders in delateing and remissnes in censureing that thairfoir on that day elders be exhorted to thair dutie and where neid is thair oathe of faithfull administratioun be renewed. It is requisite that in preparatioun to that day the act of the Provincial Assemblie anent the purgeing of sessiouns from ignorant and scandelous persons be put in executioun and for that effect in everie particular sessioun straight and narrow enquirie be maid into the conversatioun of everie elder admitted or to be admitted by grave attesting the rest of the elders if whither they be drunkards, swearers, mockers of pietie, sabbath breakers, neglectors of famielie worship, and as sallbe fownd to proceid accordinglie.

DYSERT, *Maii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Compt craved anent the pressing of famielie worship: report—not so fullie performed as wished.

Mr Alexander Moncreif and James Wilsone ar appoynted to draw out of the Assemblie book such acts as ar maid aganest vyces. Compeired Elspett Arnott in Kinglessie craveing baptisme to hir bairne brought out be hir to William Orrok who confesses fornicatioun with hir but denyes to tak with the bairne alledging it comes not to his time. The Presbytrie finds the bairne to be his in respect of his

confessioun exceps he can find ane other and ordeanes the bairne to be baptized in his name. His father being present offers himself cautioner and sponsor for bringing up of the bairne and to have the samyne baptised in his sonnes name.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Hogg sent for the releif of the people of Argyle from the parochine of Kennoquhie 44 lbs 15 sh 6d.

DYSERT, *Junii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Marjorie Pratt anent hir bairne who is unbaptised fathered upon Umqll James Stirk who constantlie affirms it to be so. The Presbytrie appoynts the bairne to be baptised she getting a sponsor for the educatioun thairof who also sall act himself that if afterward she sall grant any other father she sall satisfie as the fault sallbe found to be, and to enter hir repentance with all diligence.

The Presbytrie having seriouslie considered a supplicatioun of My Lord Scotts Tarvet and haveing sufficient evidence of the comodious lying of Inchkeirie to Kingorne doe recommend the samyne to the Commissioners for the Plantatioune of Kirks that the lands of Inchkeirie may be annexit to the Kirk and paroshe of Kingorne.

The Presbytrie appoynts the kirk of Burntiland to be visited upon Wednesday the 23 of this instant. The excommunicatioune of some persons excommunicat at Aberdein appoynted to be intimate in all the kirks of the Presbytrie whose names follow :—Mr Alex Innes a deposed minister, Mr William Maitland ane expectant, Louis Gordone sone to the sometimes Marques of Huntlie, Arthur Forbes his follower, Patrik Leyth younger of Harthill, Newtone Gordone younger, Patrik Gordone called Steilhand, Alex Gordone of Arrandule, John Gordone of Fichell, sonne to Stralochie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Margaret Adamson in Kirkcaldie is ordeaned to mak hir publik repentance for mocking of pietie under the new name of Puritanisme.

Anent the letter sent from Mr Thomas Hogg minister at Kennoquhie testifing the repentance and good behaviour of Mr Henrie Pitcairne the Presbytrie recommends him to the tryell of certaine brethren viz, Mr John Smith, Mr John Moncreif, Mr Patrik Gilespie and Mr James Wilsone and them to report thair diligence thairanent the nixt day.

BURNTILAND, *Junii* 23, 1647

The visitatioun of the kirk of Burntiland holden within the paroshe kirk thairof upon the 23 day of Junii be Mr Patrik Gilespie Moderator for the time . . . . . The heritors and elders all being deiplie sworne conjunctlie to declaire what they knew of thair minister or one of another declaired that they knew nothing of thair minister bot that he was both faithfull and diligent in his calling and all the poynts thairof as also everie one approved ane other.

The minister praised God for his elders and approved them in thair callings,

The schoolmaster and doctor ar both approven. The Presbytrie recommends to the minister and elders a visitatioun of the schole, and that betwixt this and the first of September and appoynts the minister to advertyse all the heretors to be present thairat who if they compeire not or compeiring doe nothing for the advancement of the schole in that caise the Presbyirie will use the libertie of the act of Parliament.

Anent Mr Harie Pitcairne the whole brethren to whom he was recommendit reported weill of him and wer satisfied with him. The Presbytrie declairs him frie and that he may againe open his mouth in publik. David Thomson in Kirkcaldie for curseing and imprecations aganest the whole elders is ordeaned to stand at the kirk durr upon one Sabbath upon foirnoon betwixt the two last bells in sackcloath and to sit and stand befoir the pulpett in that habit and confess his fault. Compeired Margaret Gray in Kirkcaldie relapse in adulterie with Georg Scobbie : resaved hir first injunctiouns.

The names of the heretors and elders of the parochine of Burntisland.—James Melvil of Halhill, Sr, James Melvill his sonne, Alexander Orrok of that ilk, Robert Gedd of Badrigg, Gilbert Robertson of Newbigging, James Robertson of Newbigging, Henrie Stanehouse in Newbigging, John Hugowne in Newbigging, James Jamieson in Newbigging, John Stanehouse in Denerie, David Readdie in Staneheus, John Lyell in Silliebabie, James Stocks in Grange ; elders for the burgh—Andro Watson, John Bosuell, William Brown, Baillies—Georg Gairdens, Thomas Gourlay, Patrik Angus sen, William Meikeljohn, Richard Ross, David Howburne, James Readdie sen, Patrik Gedd, Hen Barclay, Alexr Dick, Thomas Dewar, John Meldrome, Robert Galbraith, William Cuper, William Browne, James Dryesdaill, Georg Browne, Henrie Watersone, Andro Creighe, Robert Bosuell, Robert Primrose, David Andersonne, David Stirling, Andro Hutchen, John Brown, Adam Stonehouse, David Burt, Andro Smith, Magnus Aytone, William Younger, Robert Orrok, Archibald Orrok. The Presbytrie to meet in Dysert the next day. The new Psalm book to be revised be Mr James Symson nixt.

DYSERT, *Junii*, 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Davidson in Kirkcaldie adulterer confessed be him with Margaret Thomson his servand in the time : resaved his last injunctiouns. Compeired Effie Hutton in Leslie quadrilapse in fornicatioun : continewed till she be better prepared. The Presbytrie ordeanes that thair be diligence used anent the rolls of the names of these within the countrie that had their husbands killed in Ingland and that correspondence may be keipt betwixt this Presbytrie and Dunfermeline : appoynted Mr Georg Ogilvie to meitt with them nixt day for that effect. Resaved for Mr James Kirk of contribution for the kirks following :— *Inprimis* from Kirkcaldie 5 lb 10 sh, from Weyms 4 lbs, from Kinglessie 40 sh, from Kingorne 4 lbs, from Auchterdirran 42 sh, from Burntiland 4 lbs, from Ballingrie 29 sh, from Auchtertule 26 and 8d, from Skunnie 3 lbs. *Summa* 27 lbs 7 sh and 8d, whilk I the clerk delyvered to his wyff. Item resaved since from Leslie 36 sh, resting in my hand.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Henry Pitcairne is appoynted to exercise the nixt day . . . . . Compeired Jean Scott in Auchterdirran adulteress with James Lindsay: resaved hir first injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *Julii* 14, 1647.

The whilk day Mr Henry Pitcairne exercised . . . . . Mr George Ogilvie reported that he went to Dumferline anent correspondence with them concerning thair diligence of giving in thair rolls of the widows and orphans of these who wer killed in Ingland bot that the Presbytrie mett not that day. The Presbytrie appoynts him to go thither the nixt day. Appoynts Mr James Symeson to send the new Psalm book to Mr William Nairne to be perused. Appoynts Mr Thomas Melville, Mr Georg Ogilvie and Mr John Chalmer to repair to John Dicks wyff who is excommunicat to deall with hir. The Presbytrie haveing written to the Presbytrie of Dunkell anent ane slander of drunkeness alledged npon Mr James Mercer one of thair number the said Presbytrie wrote bak thair letter with the said Mr James desyreing that mater to be tried heir.

The Presbytrie remitts the said tryell to the nixt day and ordeanes witnesses to be sowmonit for that effect.

The said Mr James being demandit anent the said slander deneyed that he was drunken bot confessed that he with some others drunk thrie mutchkins of claret wine upon ane Sabbath in the morning in Burntiland

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts the Kirk of Kinglessie to be visited the nixt day and Mr John Smith to preache there and the Clerk to writt an edict for that effect. Compeired Mr James Mercer to anser for his alledged drunkeness whilk he still denyes. Compeired witnesses for probatioun in the said mater Mr William Thrift, James Burnlie, Alex Cruikshank, John Heggie, Margaret Young Elspeth Lyall, who being all admitted and sworne deponed as follows:—Mr William Thrift deponed that he could not say he was in drink; all the rest deponed alyke except Alexr Cruikshank who deponed that he thought aither he was insome drink or else sick. The Presbytrie appoynts to writt to the Presbytrie of Dunkell what they had tryed whilk also was done.

The whilk day also resaved a letter from Mr Robert Douglas with the causes of the fast whilk is to be intimated nixt Sabbath and keipt the Sabbath thairafter and also anent the chuseing of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie. Anent the chuseing of the Commissioners for the General Assemblie Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr John Smith, and Mr Alexr Moncrief be pluralitie of voyces wer chosen Commissioners and the Laird of Caskybarian ruleing Elder. Anent James Hay for mocking pietie in the name of Puritanism the Presbytrie ordeanes him to satisfie be confessing his fault publiklie. Compeired Andro Birrell for not adhereing to his wyff: sowmoned *apud acta* to the nixt day.

KINGLESSIE, *Julii* 28.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Kinglessie holden within the paroshe kirk thareof be Mr Josua Meldrom, minister at Auchtertule, Moderator . . . . . The sessioun book committed to Mr Georg Ogilvie and Mr Robert Bruce to be visited. The Presbytrie appoynts the rolls of the widows and orphans of these who wer killed in Ingland to be sent to the Laird of Fingask. The Presbytrie recommends to the elders and heretors of this Kirk to causs lower the back syd of the seatt at the repentance stool in respect it impeeds the heireing and seing of these that sits beyond it as also the repairing of thair kirk yaird dykes.

The Commissioners for the Generall Assemblie resaved thair commissioun with oathe and lifted up hands.

Compeired Kathren Lowrie, trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns. The whilk day also compeired Andro Birrell for not adhereing to his wyff Grisell Page, who declaired himself willing so to doe; the said Grissell also compeireing wold not consent to goe home to him or byde with him. The Presbytrie ordeanes hir to goe home and remain with hir husband betwixt this and the first meitting of the Presbytrie, or else they will proceid aganest hir with the censures of the kirk.

Resaved a discharge from James Stewart, merchand in Edinburt, of the sum of 44 lbs 15 sh from the Kirk of Kennoquhie collected for the distressed people of Argyle . . . Resaved also ane discharge from Mr David Thomson, Burser for the Presbytrie, whereof the tenor follows:—I, Mr David Thomson, Burser for the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, grant me to be fullie satisfied and payed of all that I can crave of the brethren of the said Presbytrie for the years of God Jai vjc fourtie six and Jai vjc fourtie seven years and discharges the said Presbytrie thairof now and ever be thir presents subscryved with my hand at Kirkcaldie the 26 day of Julii instant 1647 years.

Sic Subscribitur,

MR DAV. THOMSON.

The names of the Heretors of the Kirk of Kinglessie non-resident—Sr David Creightone of Lugtown, Knyt; Sr David Barclay of Collerine, Knyt; Patrik Kimminmonth of that Ilk, Captain Henrie Wardlaw, David Weyms, Robert Bruce, David Crystie, Robert Balcanqll. The names of the heretors and elders residents—Robert Brown of Finmonth, Robert Aytone of Inchdairnie, James Schoner of Caskybarian, Gilbert Clerk of Pityocher, Andro Aytone of Finglessie, William Orrok of Balram, Thomas Anderson, John Leithom, John Grigg, David Law, David Chrystie, Alexander Orrok, Andro Law, John Inglis, Henrie Brigg, David Todd, James Chrystie, Georg Dryburgh.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 8, 1647.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Seggie in the parochine of Kingorne adulterer wlth Kathren Chalmer there: resaved his last injunctiouns. Compeired also James Robertson in Kingorne adulterer with Margaret Grigg: resaved his last

injunctiouns. Compeired Kathren Kairnes in the parochine of Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired also Beatrix Henrison in Burntiland, adultress with William Davidson : resaved hir last injunctiouns. John Peirie in Kirkcaldie being declaired contumax for his disobedience of the sessioun there is ordeaned to be sowmonit to appear befoir the Presbytrie to anser for his contumacie. Mr Norman Leslie being to remove from this Presbytrie craved thair testimonial whilk is granted to him. Mr Thomas Melvill declairing that the lands of Ardmuir lying verie incommodiouslie for the Kirk of Portmook, desyred that they might, and adjoyned to the nixt commodious kirk, whilk was grantit.

DYSERT, *December* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved from Edr the causes of a thanksgiving to be keipt the last Sabbath of this month also causes of a fast to be keipt upon the last Sabbath of October nixt to come to be intimate. John Peirie in Kirkcaldie and Agnes Peirie his dochter being declaired contumacers and sowmonit publiklie to compeire befoire the Presbytrie this day called and not compeireing : appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Compeired Andro Birrell in Auchterdirran anent the hometaking of his wyff Grisell Page, declaired himself most willing so to doe, who also compeireing the Presbytrie ordeanes hir aither to goe home and adhere to hir said husband betwixt and this day eight dayes otherwayes they will proceid aganest hir with the censures of the kirk. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Thomas Blak and Mr John Chalmer to visit the lands of Ardmuir and to report thair diligence.

Appoynts the ministers of Burghs to speak to thair magistrates, anent changing of their Saturdayes and Moondayes mercats.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 22, 1647

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from Cuper declairing the excommunication of David Glen murtherer of a man in Kingsbarns thrie yiers since : appoynted to be intimate in all the Kirks of the Presbytrie. Mr John Chalmer reported that he and Mr Thomas Blak went and visited the lands of Ardmuir and fand them most unewest to the Kirk of Portmook and most ewest to the Kirk of Kinglessie wherefoir the Presbytrie thinks they should be adjoyned thairto : the mater referred to the nixt day of meitting after the Synod . . . . . Mr John Dryesdaill sometime minister at and Merjorie Smith relict of Umqll minister at thair supplicatiouns sein the last day who ar recommended be the Generall Assemblie to the Presbytries of Fyfe and Angus. The brethren promises to contribute for thair relief. Anent the intimatioun of the late directiouns given forth : remitts to the Assemblie. Recommends to Mr James Wilsone minister at Dysert to sowmond the Laird of Dairsie to compiere befoir the Presbytrie of Cuper to anser for his malignancie. Compiered Kathren Symson trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctiouns. The Presbytrie according to the auncient and laudable custome befoir the Assemblie wer all sevarallie removed and censured and all of them approven

both in respect of thair doctrin and also in thair lyves and conversatiouns. 20 sh resaved from Kennoquhie for James Murray.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

At Kirkcaldie the 7 October 1647. Sein and approvin D Dalgleishe, Clerk, N. P.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 29, 1647

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Moncrief be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Assemblie.

Stentors nominate for settling a provision for the schole of Portmook—The Lairds of Kirkforther, Findask, Babirnie, Badrigg, Carden, Mr Andro Moncrief, James Pitcairne, James Bedsone, John Williamsone, John Bosuell, John Dewar, Archbald Halkhead, who ar appoynted to meitt at Kirkcaldie for that effect. The Presbytrie gives warrant to Mr Joshua Meldrome to marie Janet Hutcheon whose first husband is known to be dead.

The Presbytrie appoynts the ministers of the four townes to deall with thair Magistrates for changing thair Saturdays and Mondays mercats and report thair diligence this day fyftein dayes. The directiouns ar appoynted to be read and explained in all the Kirks of the Presbytrie the nixt Sabbath and a fast to be intimate. Anent Elizabeth Young who hes slandered hirself of relapse fornicatioun the brethren think she should satisfie accordinglie. Anent James Dick in Auchterdirran being drunk upon the communione sabbath, ordeanes him to sitt one sabbath upon the place of publik repentance in Sackcloath.

DYSERT, *October* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Robert Melville, John Roland, John Colyear, Dav Ferguson, Thomas White, James Law wer added to the former stenters for settleing a provisioun for the schole of Portmook. The whilk day also the brethren reported that they had read the directions and exlpained them and had intimate the fast.

Compeired Andro Birrell in Auchterdirren and Grissell Page his spouse for not adhereing togither. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr John Chalmers to proceid with the censures of the kirk aganest the partie refuseing to adhere.

Appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell to writt to the Laird of the Bogie anent these moneyes that belongs to the wyffs and orphans of these who were killed in Ingland in the warrs.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 3

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Georg Ogilbie reported that the stenters appoynted for settleing a provision for the schole at Portmook had mett and concluded.

Received six hundred directions concerning secret and family worship distribute as follows :—To Burntiland 100, Dysert 100, to Skunnie and Weyms 100, to Leslie Markinche, and Kennoquhie 100, to Kinglessie, Auchterdirran, Ballingrie, and Auchtertule 100. Item to Kingorne 100 at 2sh the piece.

Resaved some propositiouns anent church government and ordeanatioun of Ministers with remonstrances from the Generall Assemblie at 8 sh the one, at 10d

the other whereof resaved for tuo from the Laird of Pityocher and John Bosuell. Item resaved from Mr Patrik Gilespie for tuo Declaratiouns and tuo remonstances and one propositioun 22sh and 10d. Item from Mr John Smith for a remonstrance and a propositioun 8sh and 10d. Item for a declaratioun 3sh. A letter resaved from the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly concerning souldiers and malignants recommended to the particular minister of the Presbytrie. Compeired John Peirie in Kirkcaldie for contumacie and disobedience after thrie private warnings and tuo publik citatiouns : ordeaned to sit befoir the pulpett the foirnoon in sackcloath and confess his fault.

Compeired James Haitlie in Dysert adulterer with Janet Wilson his servand : resaved his last injunctions.

A letter resaved from Mr Thomas Hogg touching provision for the schole of Kennoquhie.

DYSERT, *November* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas be his letter desyreing that thair be a sufficient number of stenters nominate be them for settling a provisioun for the schole of Kennoquhie the brethren nominate the lairds of Babirnie, Kirkfarther, Balwharg, Coull, Fingask, Athernie, Inchdairnie, Bandon, Pityocher, Finmonth, Carrestoune, Carden, Babeadie, Mr Andro Moncreif, William Thomson, Banbeth, Thomas Blyth, to meitt at Kennoquhie upon Thursday come eight days, for that effect. Compeired the laird of Badrigg, Georg Gairdens, and John Brown, ruleing elder for the towne and parochine of Burntiland who presented one supplicatioun with ane commissioun from the said parochine desyreing that the brethren wold nominate ane leit to them of thrie ministers of whom they might chuse one to supplie the place of the ministerie of Burntiland after the transportatioun of Mr John Smith thair present minister to Edr. The Presbytrie yields to thair supplicatioun and nominate for them Mr Alex Moncreif, Mr Henrie Rymour, and Mr John Duncan, after which the said commissioners presented ane other supplicatioun with ane commissioun for that effect and maid choyse of Mr Alexr Moncreif for the man whom they desyred requesting the brethren to grant them thair letter of recommendatioun to the Kings Maties heigh Thesarear for purchaseing his Maties presentatioun in favours of the said Mr Alexander. The brethren grants to give thair concurrence to them and appoynts Mr John Smith to writt a letter in thair names to the Thesaurear for that effect.

Compeired Elspeth Hutton in the parochin of Leslie quadrilapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctioun. The Presbytrie intermitts thair nixt day of meitting in respect the commissioners for the kirk ar to meitt the nixt day in Edr and appoynts to meitt in Kirkcaldie this day fyftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from Mr Thomas Hogg anent the settleing a provisioun for the schole of Kennoquhie. Item resaved the Synod book from the clerk of the Assemblie. The said day compeired John Morison a poor

lamed man recommended to the brethren of this Presbytrie be the Generall Assemblie: the brethren promeises to help him. Diligence to be asked of the ministers of Kirkcaldie the nixt day anent the change of the mercats.

Memorandum to enquyre what sallbe the censure of one who was found to be drunk upon the communion Sabbath. The meitting of the Presbytrie continewed to this day fyftein dayes in Dysert in respect the commissioners for the kirk ar yit in Edr.

DYSERT, *December* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Janet Wilson in Dysert adulterer with James Haitlie there: resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Janet Layng in Markinche trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir last injunctiouns. The nomination of new stenters for settleing a provisioun for the schole of Kennoquhie committed to Mr Fred Carmichaell aganest the nixt day.

The Synod book appoynted to be produced the nixt day. Compeired William Davidson in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved his first injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Chalmer to speak with the baillies of Kirkcaldie for changing of thair mercats and concerning Mr James Miller for freeing him from the burden of souldiers. The former stentors appoynted for settleing a provisioun for the schole of Kennoquhie not haveing mett ar appoynted to meitt at Leslie upon the six day of Januarii nixt to come and nominates of men to meitt with them, the lairds of Fingask, Athernie, Babirnie, Balwhorg, Bandon, Kirkfarther, Coull, Inchdairine, Finmonth, Pityocher, Carden, Babeadie, Arnett, Kirknes, Balram, Strathenrie. Mr Andro Moncreif, Captaine Arnett, James Scrimgeor, and Mr Frederik Carmichell to meitt with them. The whilk day the brethren appoynted James Symeson and Mr Patrik Gillespie to try Mr Andro Malloch in his grammer for teaching the schole of Auchterdirran. The Laird of Fingask delyvered the whole moneyes allotted for this Presbytrie for the relief of the widows and orphans of these who were killed in Ingland and for the lamed men to the ministers of the severall paroshes to be distributed be them as appoynted for the whilk the brethren rendered great thanks to him for his favour and diligence.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 5, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren reported that they had delyvered the moneyes that they had resaved from the Laird of Fingask as was appoynted. Mr James Symeson reported that he had tryed Mr Andro Malloch in his grammer and fand him meitt for the schole of Auchterdirran or for a better schole. David Balfours petitioun craveing that some of these moneyes which wer collectit for his relief from the Turks in Argiers might be grantit to him for setting him forward in his calling, to be anserit the nixt day after the brethren have advysed with thair severall sessiouns. William Hoome, Commissioner for the paroshe of Egelshome,

produced ane commissioun from the said parochine craveing that Mr James Wilsone may be transported from the Kirk of Dysert to the said kirk. The Presbytrie appoynts thair Clerk to direct sowmonds for charging the parochiners of Dysert to compeire befoir the Presbytrie in Kirkcaldie this day fyftein dayes for that effect. Compeired Symon Adamson in Weyms trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved his last injunctiouns. Compeired also Agnes Lessels in Ballingrie, trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir first injunctiouns. Item compeired Margaret Gray in Kirkcaldie trelapse in adulterie with Georg Scobbie ; resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Wodrow, commissioner, from the parochine of Eagleshome exhibiting ane commissioun from the said paroshe for transporting of Mr James Wilsone from the kirk of Dysert to the said Kirk of Eagleshome, as also Mr David Bennett, minister at the Kirk of Leyngie compeireing, presented ane letter from the Presbytrie of Glasgow for that effect.

The Presbytrie having hard the reasons of these of Eagleshome for the said transportatioun and also the reasons of the parochiners of Dysert for his remaining and considering the samyne *hinc inde* togither, also the anser of the towne of Dysert to that reasone concerning the laik of maintenance for the said Mr James Wilsone, viz. William Symeson, Baillie ; Georg Lundie, Clerk ; Mr James Craig, praecentor ; Captain Robert Melvill, David Crystie of Stenton, David Symeson of Monturpie, John Gay, Thomas Richardson, Archbald Halkhead, and James Thomson doe judiciallie promeise that they sall at the cite of the Presbytrie at thair nixt meitting give Mr James Wilsone securitie for 8 hundreth and 50 merks *per annum* by and attour that which they allow for his houss meal and for the hundreth punds payable by Mr Wllliam Nairne, aither the said Mr William sall give his assignatioun thairto whereof the first terms payment sallbe Witsonday nixt to come, whereupon the said Presbytrie unanimouslie concluded that the said Mr James Wilsone sall stay still at Dysert.

The saids parochiners of Dysert craved also a visitatioun of the kirk whilk the Presbytrie grants to them whilk is appoynted to be upon the 2 day of Februarii nixt to come and appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill to preache at the said visitatioun.

Reference from the Presbytrie to the Synod anent chapmen that they tak themselfs to some speciall paroshe to whilk they must be anserable. Item anent William Hayes mariage with Margaret Young who is delated for witchcraft.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 2, 1648.

The visitatioun of the Kirk of Dysert holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne upon the 2 of Februarii, be Mr John Moncreif minister at Skunie, Moderator . . . The ministers first being removed for thair tryells, the whole elders unanimouslie praise God for them and approved them both in thair doctrin and in thair lyves and conversatiouns, bot some of them regretted that Mr William Nairne in respect of his great age and infirmitie is not weill hard in his preaching be the

people and is not so able for performing the rest of his pastoral duties viz, discipline and visitatioun of the sick as necessitie requyres, as also they regrat that he hes sett tax of the teyths of Dysert as parson prejudicial to the kirk thairof requesting of the brethren that they wold inhibit him from setting any further tax on that kind . . .

The sessioun book remitted to Mr Harie Wilkie to be visited. The elders ar exhorted to keip the sessioun better and to give satisfactioun to Mr James Wilsone anent his stipend which they promeise faithfullie to doe. The ministers wer also commendit for thair diligence and fidelitie in thair callings and exhorted to continew faithfull to the death, bot particularie did inhibit Mr William Nairne to sett any more tax on the tithes of Dysert wherein he promeises to doe nothing without thair consent and thairto doth enact himself. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer to goe to Auchtertule and resave John Wyllie. The whilk day also the Laird of Fingask and William Thomson, commissioner from the parochine of Skunnie presented ane humble supplicatioun to the Presbytrie that Mr Alexander Moncreif myt not be transported from them to Burntiland for weightie reasons therein conteined and requesting the samyne to be represented be tham to the town and parochine of Burntiland and to deal with them to pass from him whilk the brethren taking to their serious consideratioun and having hard Mr Alexr himself concerning the sadd and heavie conditioun he hes bein in since the day the Presbytrie did joyne with the paroshe of Burntiland it transporting him from Skunie thither as also the humble supplicatioun of the parochine of Skunie who upon thair conscience doe declaire that not thair interest in his transportatioun cheiflie bot the haisaird his life hes bein in since the motion of that transportatioun hes moved them to mak this addres for his remaining where he is. The Presbytrie being greatlie affected both with the one and the other doe direct thair brethren Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Thomas Ogilvie to goe to the sessioun of Burntiland and represent the samyne unto them. The Presbytrie also appoynts Mr John Moncreif to goe to the town Counsell of Kirkcaldie and to deall with the magistrats in changeing of the mercats.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . The ruleing elder for Skunie presented ane humble supplicatioun from Mr Alex Moncreif thair minister, sheweing the great daunger and haisaird for his life he is in ever since that call of him to Burntiland requesting the brethren to commisserate his estait and to grant him an supplicatorie letter to the commissioun of the kirk that they wold be pleased to suffer him to stay still in Skunie and not to remove him in respect of the haisaird of his life.

The brethren knowing the certaintie of the mater yields to his desyre and appoynts Mr John Moncreif, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Georg Ogilvie, and Mr James Wilsone to draw up a letter for that effect to the commissioun of the kirk. Mr John Alexander minister of Cult commissioner from the Presbytrie of Cuper declaired that thair is ane controversie fallen out betwixt Sir James Melvill, Hallhill, and Mr John Litiljohn minister at Colessie, desyreing the brethren that they wold be pleased to send some of thair number to concur with thair Presbytrie for settling of the samyne. The Presbytrie appoynts thair brether Mr James Wilson and Mr Georg

Ogilbie to resort thither for that effect and the Laird of Fingask ruleing elder with them to meitt at Cuper the 24 of this instant. Resaved a letter from the Presbytrie of Dunfermeline anent the mortificatioun for the stipend for the kirk of Baith: anser continewed to the nixt day. The said day also Mr John Chalmer declaired that Andro Birrell and his wyff ar thrie severall Sabbaths publiklie sowmoned to adhere togither under the paine of contumacie: ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day to heire themself declaired contumacious.

DYSERT, *March* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts to meitt heir in Dysert this day fyftein dayes in respect Mr William Nairne is not able to travell to Kirkcaldie. Anent the mortificatioun of the Kirk of Baith: anser continewed till the Assemblie. Anent David Balfours proportioun of these moneyes that wer collectit for his relief from the Turks the Presbytrie ar content to give him the half of them whilk will expend to eleven hundreth fyftie merks or thairby. Anent the supplicatioun given in be the sisters of John Cunningham to the Presbytrie bearing the loss they did sustein be thair brothers death at Argier who befoir his parting from Scotland had drawn on much debt for his outreak which the creditors forced them to pay; whilk supplicatioun the Presbytrie takeing to thair consideratioun ordeaned one hundreth punds scotts money to be given to the said sisters to help thair losses. Andro Birrell and his wyff compeireing ar declaired contumacious for not adhereing togither after thrie publik warnings. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr John Chalmer thair minister to proceid aganest them with excommunicatioun in caise of further disobedience. A letter with sixtien books of propositiouns and sixteen of advyses resaved from Edr at six shillings scotts the one and ten shillings the other to be distribute among the brether of the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie gives warrand to Mr Frederik Carmichaell to mary James Stein, trooper, for they judged his testimonials sufficient.

Anent James Haitlie in Dysert relapse in adulterie and trelapse in fornicatioun: refers what to doe with to the Synod.

DYSERT, *March* 29.

The whilk day compeired Helen Miller in Leslie for slanderous behaviour with one William Germouth a soldier: denyed the same. The Presbytrie discharges hir to haunt his companie heirafter otherwayes to be holden as guiltie and to satisfie accordinglie and sowmones hir *apud acta* to compeire this day fyftein dayes and appoynts the minister to use further tryell in the mater. The brethren takeing to thair consideratioun the meaness of the stipend of Auchtertule appoynts Mrs John Moncrief, Frederik Carmichaell, and John Chalmer to advyse for bettering of it. The brethren and rueleing Elders according to the laudable and ancient custome wer severallie removed for thair tryells and wer all recommended and approven.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

6 April 1648, this book produced and examined be D. Dalgleishe, N P.

DYSERT, *April* 12, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . absent Mrs John Moncrief, Frederik Carmichael, John Moncrief being directed be the Provincial of Fyff to present thair supplicatiouns to the Parliament and Mr Fred Carmichaell also to repaire to Steirling to keip correspondence thair with the Synod of Perth. Compeired Helen Miller in Leslie for slanderous behaviour wiith Willam Germouth after she was discharged his companie with certification as effeirs ; deneyed the samyne but acknowledged abuse of the sessioun : sowmoned *apud acta* to compeire this day fyftien dayes in Dysert. Mr John Chalmers demanding what he sall doe anent the mariage of Captain Paton with Margaret Arnott dochter to George Arnot seeing the said Georg is averse from the mariage without any relevant reason alledgit be him to the contrar. The said John is appoynted to proceid with the said mariage with advyce of his sessioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Walker produced ane testimonial from the Universitie of St Androis, and ane other from the Presbytrie of Lithgow whilks wer read and allowed be the Presbytrie. A letter resaved from Mr Thomas Hogg recommending Mr Harie Page to be tryed be the Presbytrie in his gramer to the schole of Kennoquhie.

Compeired Kathren Chalmer in Kingorne, adultress with John Seggie : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired Agnes Junkine in Kingorne, adultress with Crispin Davidson there : resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Margaret Adam in Leslie, relapse in fornicatioun : resaved hir last injunctiouns.

Elspett Harrsione being referred to the Presbytrie anent hir satisfactioun for hir alledged drunkeness, the Presbytrie remitts hir back agane to the sessioun of Kirkcaldie. Mr William Oliphant, minister at Dunfermline, direct be the Synod to try what the Baillies of Kirkcaldie had done concerning the change of their mercats, the Presbytrie directing some of thair number to the saids Baillies found nothing done thairanent bot that they promeise to convene the counsell and use thair diligence for that effect. Thomas Nicolson presenting ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie for charitie is recommendit to thair particular sessiouns.

DYSERT, *April* 26, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Page is recommendit be the brethren to be tryed in his gramer for the schole of Kennoquhie to Mr John Moncreif and Mr Josua Meldrome.

DYSERT, *Maii* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Helen Miller in Leslie for hir slanderous behaviour with William Germonth, being discharged his companie befoir with certificatioun to be holden guiltie, and now he, being found naked in hir bed, the Presbytrie ordeanes hir to sit half a year upon the place of publik repentance, and the last thrie dayes in sackcloath, she being relapse in fornicatioun befoir.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Moncreif be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Synodall Assemblie. The Presbytrie ar content to supplie Kirkcaldie in preaching upon Tysday or Friday, as the minister thairof should think fittest till the courss of the Presbytrie be endit. Mr John Moncreiff produced ane discharge from David Balfour of eleven hundreth and fyftie merks resaved be him whilk was collectit for his relief be the Turks in Argiers. The said day the said Mr John Moncreif produced ane discharge from Elspett, Margaret, and Janet Cunninghams sisters of Umqll John Cunningham and skippers mate of the said David Balfour who dyed captive in Argier and had engaged these his thrie sisters in debt for undertaking the whilk voyage wherein the skipper and hee wes taken be the Turks. Helen Miller in Leslie refuseing to obey the decreit of the Presbytrie aganest hir is appoynted to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

A fast is appoynted to be keipt upon Sunday come eight dayes and appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath. The draft of the supplicatioun whilk was to be presented to the commitie of warr which was to meitt at Cuper the morne was read and approven be the whole Presbytrie and Mrs John Moncrief and Thomas Melvill ministers, and John Bosuell ruleing elder appoynted to present the samyne whereof the tenor followeth ;—To the Honnoll and Heighe Court of Parliament the humble supplicatioun of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.—It would have been the joy of our hart that we could without wronging of our conscienses have given obedience to your Ll commands expressed in your earlier letter to our Presbytrie bot is our deip regrett and we cannot bot acknowledge with much sadnes of hart that the many grieveous provocatiouns of this land hes cast such darkness upon the publik consultatiouns and resolutiouns as yit we cannot saiflie condescend to them and thairfoir hopeing still your Ll will not tak a courss to force our consiences we have with all humilitie tendered this our humble supplicatioun to your Ll that ye wold be aither pleased to cleir us who ar the haters of his Maties person, enemies to monarchical government lovers of secteries and who cast aspertiouns and raise calumnies upon your Ll proceedings then put us in suspicioun that we ar aimed at and that without any ground, God is our witness, yit according to the power God hes put in our hands we have been, ar, and sall be, as readie in our way to doe our utmost for opposing all these as we wish your L may be readie for suppressing malignants and thair adherents. We know that all the particulars of your L letter direct to us have been fullie anserit and according to the sense by the supplicatioun tendered to your L from many Presbyters of severall Provinces to which we heartlie join and thairfoir being still unsatisfied on the grounds of the lawfulness and necessitie of the present engagement we doe humblie and in the feir of God entreat your L naither to exact nor effect from us that by any means we should stir up or encourage the people among whom we serve to this engagement as we wer niver and hope sall not be of the number af those who withdraw thair shoulder from Gods work so naither sall we God willing be deficient to the uttermost of our power in the way that God hes allowed us to contribute to his Maties Heiness freedom and

saftie, religioun being first secured and the throne of Jesus Christ established. The said day also the commissioners from the parochine of Burntiland having presented ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie concerning a list to be condescended upon be them with consent of the said paroshe to be sent to his Maties Heigh Thesaurer, the Presbytrie did nominate a list of the brethren following viz—Mr Georg Hutchesone minister at Calmonell, Mr Harie Rymour, minister at Carnbie and Mr Macgill minister at Dunbegg to which the commissiouners of the said paroshe of Burntiland gave thair consent.

DYSERT, *Maii* 24, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the anser to Margaret Young in Dysert hir petitioun given in to the Presbytrie (delate for witchcraft) desyreing the libertie of mariage and to participate the communion the Presbytrie yields to the first part bot refuses the last till tryell be maid and she cleired. Mr John Moncreif and Mr Thomas Melvill declaired that they went to Cuper as they wer appoynted and delyvered the supplicatioun. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Mr. John Chalmer to goe over to Edr for assisting the commissioners of the gentrie of Fyff in putting thair supplicatioun to the Parliament.

Compeired Helen Miller in Leslie who promeised to give obedience to the decreit of the Presbytrie aganest hir and to begin hir repentance the nixt Sabbath. The humble supplicatiouns of Thomas Nicolson, Margaret Hamilton and Jean Macknae that ar recommendit to the brethren and appoynts them to bring for thair supplie the nixt day. Resaved from Patrik Dickson in Edr fyftein printed copies of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie thair representatioun at 4 sh the piece : distribute be the Moderator to be payit.

Compeired Crispin Davidson in Kingorne adulterer with Agnes Junkin thair : resaved his first injunctiouns. A letter was this day brought from the Parliament at Edr to the Presbytrie enjoining some things concerning the present engagement which they could not condescend without wranging thair consciences and goeing aganest thair light and thairfoir appoynted commissioners to be direct to the other thrie Presbytries of the Shyre viz, Mr Thomas Blak for St Androis, Mr Georg Ogilbie for Dunfermeline and Mr Josua Meldrome for Cuper, that some common courss might be taken for anser thairto. Compeired William Davidson in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun : resaved his last injunctiouns. Resaved ane supplicatioun from the parochine of Burntiland craveing of the Presbytrie that they will be pleased to supplicate the Parliament that they wold cleir them anent the grounds of this present engagement.

DYSERT, *Junii* 6.

The whilk day the Presbytrie meitting extraordinarllie without exercise be reason of Mr James Mackgill minister at Largo commissioner from the Presbytrie at St Androis, compeireing desyred in name of the said Presbytrie that this Presbytrie wold be pleased to appoynt thair Presbyteriall meitting heirafter upon the Tysday for a short pace for correspondence betwixt the thrie Presbytries anent publik

affairs whereunto the Presbytrie willinglie condescended and appoynted thair nixt meitting to be at Kirkcaldie the nixt Tysday for that effect. The Presbytrie having resolved upon ane supplicatioun to the Parliament in anser to thair letter appoynts Mr John Moncreif with concurrence of the other thrie brethren who did for the tyme attend the commissioun of the Generall Assemblie humblie to represent the samyne.

Resaved ane supplicatioun from Leslie another from Auchtertule ; the rest ar appoynted to bring in thairs the nixt day.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved ane act from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie whereof the tenor follows :—The commissioun of the Generall Assemblie recommends seriouslie to Presbytries to tak speciall notice of everie brothers cariage in the publik business that if any be found who doe not declaire themselfs aganest the present engagement nor join with thair brethren in thair common resolutiouns aganest it nor give publik information to the people of the unlawfulness thairof they may be referred to the nixt Generall Assemblie and if any of them have alreadie declaired themselfs for it they be publiklie censured.

Sic Subscribitur.

Mr A. KER.

A copie of the new Psalme book sent be Mr Zachari Boyd minister at Glasgow to be perused and considered be the brethren. The Presbytrie grants to give ane year annual rent of these moneys whilk ar in Captain Alexanders Hirds hands to Janet Livingston in satisfactioun to hir supplicatioun. Compeired Margaret Grigg in Kingorne adultress with James Robertson : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Mr Thomas Blak appoynted to meitt with the Presbytrie of Cuper the nixt day for correspondence.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved a letter from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie concerning a fast to be keipt upon the last Thursday of Junii and the first Sabbath of Julii . . . The commissioners of Burntiland compeireing requyred of the Presbytrie that they wold be pleased to grant them thair letter to the Presbytrie of Ayr anent the transportatioun of Mr Georg Hutcheson minister at Calmonell to be minister at Burntiland whilk the Presbytrie grantit to them. Anent the chuseing of commissioners to the Generall Assemblie, Mr John Moncreif, Mr Fred Carmichael, and Mr John Chalmer, wer by pluralitie of voyces chosen and My Lord Elcho as ruleing elder. Margaret Thomson resaved hir first injunctiouns. Mr Alexander Moncreif appoynted to goe to Cuper for correspondence.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 4, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . The commissioners for the Generall Assemblie resaved thair commissioun.

The Presbytrie appoynts to meitt at Kirkcaldie upon Tyesday nixt for resaveing

the commissiouns from some of the burghs. Compeired Agnes Lessels in Ballingrie trelapse in fornicatioun and Jean Scott in Auchterdirran adulteress with James Lindsay ; resaved thair last injunctiouns. Anent the cariage of the brethren they being severallie removed the rest declaired that they hard nothing offensive of any of them.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The commissiouns from Kirkcaldie, Dysert, and Burntiland, wer given in and approven. Ane anser of the letter sent to Ayr anent the transportatioun of Mr Georg Hutcheson from the Kirk of Callmonel to the Kirk of Burntiland returned shewing that the mater was referred to the Generall Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert White in Kirkcaldie anent a reference from the sessioun there concerning Francis Hogg and Francis Hutcheons slandering of the said Robert and calling him ane common theif whilk slander the persons byds be and offers them to prove the samyne. The Presbytrie advyses the said sessioun to conveine the saids persons befoir them and charge them aither to prove these speeches befoir the Judge Ordinar criminallie and that within ane short time otherwayes to mak them suffer as slanderers. The Presbytrie thinks the ministers of Dysert may marie Major Lundie haveing sein sufficient testimonials concerning him.

DYSERT, *August* 23, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the magistrats of Kingorne for apprehending some persons in the kirk upon the fasting Sabbath to put them out to the warrs remitts what sallbe thair censure to the Provincial Assemblie. Resaved a letter from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie the ministers to intimate a letter when it comes to thair hands anent the not subscrybing ane act of Parliament.

Compeired Bessie Ronaldson in Kingorne adulteress with Malcolm Toish : resaved hir first injunctiouns. Compeired Isobell Nicoll in Dysert for slanderous behaviour with Serjand Mackdowell : denyed the samyne : remitted to tryell.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Francis Hutcheon supplicating the Presbytrie for a longer time to prosecute his process aganest Robert White. The Presbytrie remitts him to the Sessioun of Kirkcaldie.

Compeired Agnes Birrell in Kennoquhie trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir first injunctiouns. A fast is appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath to be keipt the Sabbath thairafter. The visitatioun of the Kirk of Auchterdirran to be continewed till the harvest be done. Mr Georg Hamilton commissioner from the Presbytrie of St Androis present for correspondence.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 13.

The whilk day the brethren mett without exercise in respect of the troubles of the countrie . . .

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The exercise continewed to this day fyftein dayes in respect the Synod is to meitt the nixt weik in Cuper, the ordinar time of meitting being passed by in respect of the troubles of the countrie and shyre. Mr Robert Leckie being recommended be the commissioners of the kirk to the charitie of the Presbytries of Kirkcaldie and Dunfermeline the brethren promeises to contribute to his necessitie. The brethren according to the old laudable custome wer severallie removed for thair tryells befoir the Synod and wer all approven both in thair doctrine and in thair lyves and conversatioun.

Mr J. Miller, scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 11, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . The exercise continewed till this day fyftein dayes in respect of the Synod whilk is to meitt the nixt weik whilk was intermitted the last weik be reason of the troubles of the shyre be souldiers.

DYSERT, *October* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the chuseing of the Moderator Mr James Wilson be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Synod. Anent the questiouns proponed in the Synod touching the knowledge or subscryving of ane band concerning the last engagement the brethren who wer absent from the Synod viz., Mr James Symson, Mr William Nairne, Mr Thomas Melvill, and Mr Josua Meldrome being attested and enquyred; all anserit negative, of the whilk questiouns the tenor followeth.—1 Whither any paper supplicatioun or purpose be concerning the common causs and laite engagement drawn up or remited be whatsoever persons was presented or communicate to you without the knowledge or consent of the Presbytries or Judicatories of the Kirk respectively where yee ar. 2 Whither yee evir hard of any such supplicatioun paper or purpose going through the countrey. 3 Whidder ever yee consented to or subscryved any such paper or purpose. 4 Whidder yee was at any meitting at Edr or elsewhere aither with statesmen or others advyseing or consulting about maters of the late Ingagement and publik cause prejudicial to the knowledge of the publik judicotories where yee ar. 5 Whidder yee know ony who hes subscryved the laite band of the parliament or hes given counsell or consent thairto without the province of Fyff. Isobell Hamilton relict of Mr Robert Cambell, minister, also Edward Miller, recommended be the Generall Assemblie and ratified be the Synod thair supplicatioun sein the brethren promeises to contribute to them.

Alexander Fraser a poore supplicant scholemaster recommended to the particular sessiouns of the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the Presbytrie of Perth whidder David Whittites repentance for fornicatioun committed be him in these bounds and

the said David dwelling in Dysert where the said slander is most pregnant seing he cannot doe it thair for haisard of his lyff be the gentlewomans friends; anser continewed to the nixt day. The said day also the Presbytrie ordeans, Mr James Symson to call upon Francis Hutcheon to mak his repentance for slandering Robert White according to the said Robert White his supplicatioun for that effect. Compeired Margaret Walker in Dysert trelapse in fornicatioun; resaved hir first injunctiouns.

DYSERT, *November* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the supplicatioun of Burntiland that the Presbytrie would be pleased to join with them in an supplicatioun to the commissioun of the kirk for obteining of ane minister to them, the Presbytrie yields to thair desyre and appoynts the Moderator and some brethren whom he shall chose with him to draw up the samyne which was done. A letter sent from the commissioun of the Generall Assemblie with fyftein printed copies of thair anser to the states, observatiouns; Item fyftein copies of the Solemn League and Covenant; Item fyftein of the Solemn acknowledgement; as many of a Lairge Declaratioun; and as many of a Short Declaratioun, all the pryces is 14 sh 8d; disposed among the brethren.

Anent the anser to the letter resaved from the Presbytrie of Perth the Presbytrie ar content to accept of David Whittiets repentance in Dysert according to the overture maid be the Presbytrie of Perth the slander being also pregnant in Dysert and for a while being in danger to the mans lyff be the womans friends.

Ruleing Elders nominat—for Kirkcaldie David Fergusson—for Weyms, My Lord Elcho—for Skunie, the Laird of Fingask—for Auchtertule, James Law—for Kinglessie, Mr Andro Aytone—for Markinch, the Laird of Caristown. Mr Thomas Melvill proponed to the Presbytrie that they may be charged to charge the parochiners of Kinglessie for stenting of themselfs for payment of the reparatioun of the kirk and kirkyaird dykes and furnishing of a bell &c., the anser thairof continewed. Resaved from Auchtertule for the 4 supplicants—a dollar.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 6, 1648.

The whilk day . . . . . Persons to be processed for being accessorie to the late unlawfull Ingagement—for Kirkcaldie the Laird of Bogie, Ninian and Robert Muirs, John Dick, John Guthrie, Georg Law, James Henrieson—for Dysert, My Lord Sinclair, William Sinclair, James and Duncan Weyms, Mr Georg Law, John Law, David Symson, John Melvill, John Readie, Alexr Yule, John Spens, Robert Cunningham, Captain Lymburn, Georg Murdoe, L. C. Weyms, Mr David Symeson—for Skunie, My Lord Register, Mr James Cranstown.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved from Edr ten copies of the explanation of the former act of the 6 of October 1648, anent the debarring of these who should be debarred from taking the covenant and resaving the commissioun—distribute among the brethren. Anent the persons ordeaned to be processed for maliginance

and promoteing the late unlawfull engagement or being with Lanrik or Munroe, compeired, My Lord of Durie, as also Mr James Cranstown who confessed the samyne ; ordeaned to obsteane from taking the Covenant or to present themselfs to the communion till order be taine with them be the Generall Assemblie who promeised to obey. Ordeans the clerk to causs sowmons these of Kirkcaldie. It is informed to the Presbytrie that Robert and Thomas Logies both sonnes to Ninian Logie, Corronetts to Horse troops being with Montrois in the late unlawfull engagement as now for the present in service, it is thought fitt that thair names be sent to the commissioners of the kirk that they may be presented to the committie of estaits that no such beare charge in the armie. From Dysert compeired James Weyms of Pitkenie ; confessed that he subscryved the protestatioun bearing on the engagement bot not the band.

Compeired also, John Melvill and David Symson of Smeaton confessed that they had subscryved the protestatioun bot not the band. Compeired also, Mr David sonne to the said David Symson denyed that ever he saw the said protestatioun bot being enquyred at if he did not use to reason for the said lait unlawfull engagement confessed the samyne ; sowmoned *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day. Compeired also Duncan Weyms, John Law, Alexr Yule, confessed that they subscryved the said protestatioun bot knew not which it was ; all these ar declaired to be debarred from the covenant and the communion. The whilk day also compeired Sir John Weyms of Bogie, Knyt of his owne accord and declaired freelie befoir the Presbytrie his great grief for subscryving the band enjoyned be the parliament for carrying on the sinfull engagement that he should have bein accessorie in any way to the engagement humblie desyreing of the Presbytrie he might be admitted to the covenant and communion. The Presbytrie takeing his desyre to consideratioun, finding the explacatioun of the act of the commissioun to comprehend his caise ordeane him to confess his fault publiklie befoir the congregatioun and to give under his hand a declaratioun of his remorse for the said courss and for renouncing of it, engageing himself to be more stedfast in the causs of God in tymecoming which he willinglie undertakes and gives in his declaratioun subscryved as follows : —Whereas it hath been my weakness in the tyme of defectioun which hath been in this kingdome to joyne with others aganest the causs of God in accepting the place of Generall Commissioner of that armie as also by subscryving a band or any other thing of that kind which is condemned be the Generall Assemblie which in my consience I acknowledge to be sinfull and am hartlie grieved for it and renounces heirby everything contained thairin and promeises by the assistance of the Lord hereafter to study to walk more warilie and holylie and to adhere and obey such acts as the Generall Assemblie of this kingdome and thair commissioun hath or sall mak for the good of the church and being conscious of my owne weakness for the effect foirsaid doe earnestlie desyre the concurrence of your prayers.

Sic Subscribitur,

Sir J. W. Bogie.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 14.

The whilk day the brethren viz, Mr James Wilsone, Moderator, Mrs John Moncreif, John Chalmer, and Josua Meldrome, Fred Carmichaell, Alexr Moncrief, Thomas Blak ministers and ruleing Elders for Kirkcaldie, Burntiland, Kinglessie, being mett for takeing order with malignants.

Compeired L Collonell Weymss being actuall in the last sinfull engagement: ordeaned to abstein from takeing the convenant and communion according to the act which was intimate to him. Compeired also Mr Georg Law, Robert Spottiswood, Georg Murdoe, Wiliam Sinclair, John Bruce in Dysert for being accessorie to the late sinfull engagement and subscrying of the protestatioun: the said act was also intimate to them. Compeired also Ninian Muir, Robert Muir, John Dick and Georg Law in Kirkcaldie for being actuall in the last sinfull engagement: the act also intimate to them. Compeired also David Symeson in Dysert, for alledgit offering to drink My Lord of Argyles confussioun: deneyed the samyne. Compeired Mr James Craig, witness in the said mater who being admitted and sworne deponed, that he being in companie hard Mr David Symeson say, Come let us drink Argyles confussioun, bot the companie drank it not: the mater remitted to further tryell and he in the meanwhile debarred from taking the covenant and communion.

The whilk day also compeired Sir John Mackenzie of Tarbet desyreing to be admitted to the covenant and communioun. The Presbytrie ordeanes him a certificate from the North of his cariage there for cleireing anent the commissioun resaved be him for leaving a Regiment there whilk he promeises to doe. Compeired Sr James Melville of Hallhill, Alexander Orrok of that Ilk, Robert Jedd of Badrigg, Thomas Gourlay and John Brown commissioners from the parochine and towne of Burntiland who humblie craved of the Presbytrie that they wold be pleased to nominate a list to them of some qualified ministers whereof one might be chosen to supplie the vacant place of thair ministrie. The Presbytrie consented to this thair reasonable request and for that effect nominates to them Mr Ephraim Melvill, minister at South Queensferrie, Mr Alex Wedderburn minister at Forgan and Mr John Carstairs, minister at Colmonell that thair names may be sent to the Kings Matie or any having his Heighness power for purchaseing a presentatioun to one of thir thrie with the whilk foirsaid the commissioners wer weill satisfied. The Presbytrie appoynts to meitt at Kirkcaldie upon the Wednesday nixt for disciplin thair being much business of disciplin to be gone about.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 20.

The whilk day the brethren being mett according to the appoyntment of last day . . . Compeired Charles Venters confessed he subscryved the protestatioun for the laitt unlawfull engagement: ordeaned to abstein from takeing the covenant and communioun till he give evidence of his repentance he not being sensible of his fault.

Compeired Robert Kirkcaldie of Grange desyreing to be admitted to the covenant and communioun who denyed that ever he subscryved the protestatioun

for carying on the unlawful engagement or was accessorie in any way thairto. The Presbytrie thinks meitt first to try of the process of the committie upon what growed he was fined be them for malignance befoir he be admitted.

Compeired Patrik Kirkcaldie and Georg Bosuell in Kinghorne, William Ross in Skunie being accesorie to the laitt unlawfull engagement: the act in debarring them from taking the covenant or communioun intimate to them. Compeired also Lievetent Edward Hill who humblie confessed his accessioun to the laitt sinfull engagement acknowledging his great sorrow for the samyne and desyreing that he might be admitted to the covenant and communioun. The Presbytrie advyses him to goe to the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie and to supplicate them for his admissioun and anent the way of his satisfactioun. The Presbytrie appoynts thair nixt day of meitting to be this day fyftien dayes in Dysert. The Solemne Leag and Covenant appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath and the oath to be taine the sabbath thairafter.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 10, 1649.

The whilk day . . . . . Delyvered to Ard Miller supplicant for Skunie 42sh; item all afoir resaved for him delyvered to him; rests unpaid to him for Dysert, Burntiland, Kennoquhie, Leslie, Markinche. Resaved be Walter Dalgleish from the Clerk from the kirks of Kirkcaldie, Dysert, Kinglessie, Auchterdirran, Ballingrie, 10 Merks whereof he grants a resait.

Sic Subscribitur,

W. DALGLEISH.

Item more resaved be him from Kirkcaldie 4 Merks; Item for Weyms 6 merks; Item from Kinglessie 4 Merks—in compleit payment of all bygone Assemblies, item from Burntiland 4 merks—*inde* 12 lbs whereof he grant the resait.

Sic Subscribitur,

W. DALGLEISH.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Kirkcaldie of Grange desyreing to be admitted to the covenant and communioun seeing that nothing is proven aganest him. The Presbytrie yields to his desyre. The Presbytrie at the desyre of Mr Thomas Melvill that some courss might be taken be concurrence of the Presbytrie to get thair Kirkyaird dykes and Bell house repaired sent thair commissioners viz, Mr John Chalmer, Mr Joshua Meldrome and Mr Georg Ogilbie to meitt in Kinglessie with the Heretors and to deall with them for that effect with the ruleing Elders upon Wednesday nixt and to report thair diligence to the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie doe desyre thair commissioners to have a caire for obtaining from the Parliament ane act for the commodious situatioun of kirks and how these parts that ar farr distant from kirks may be annexit to the most ewast adjacent kirk and if the paroshiners refuse to supplicate themselfs that the Parliament wold extend thair act for enjoining them and had thair commissioners deall with the Parliament particularlie anent the Kirk of Portmook. Anent one Agnes in Kennoquhie trelapse

in fornication being fearfull and of a weak spirit the Presbytrie referrs hir to hir minister.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The commissioners sent be the Presbytrie to Kinglessie reported that they having visited the said kirk according to thair commissioun fand the necessitie of repairing the Kirkyaird dykes and Bell house and dealt with the paroshiners that a stent might be made for that effect. The Presbytrie approves thair diligence.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 13.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved a letter from the committie at Cuper desyreing the Presbytrie to give them a list of the names of these with whom they had entered in process and censured for malignancie that they might accordinglie fine them : anser continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired commissioners from Burntiland for a list of ministers whereof they may chuse one being disappointed in thair former assay.

The Presbytrie in respect of the rairnes of the meitting many of the brethren being at the commission of the kirk appoynts to meitt the nixt day at Kirkcaldie for satisfieing thair desyre.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 7, 1649.

The whilk day compeired L. Collonell Weyms, C. Alexr Weyms, L. John Bruce, craveing of the Presbytrie that they wold be pleased to recommend them to the commissioners of the kirk, that they may be accepted and reconciled to the kirk and admitted to the covenant and communioun. The Presbytrie yields to this thair desyre.

Anser to the presses of the committie : his letter continewed to this day fyftein dayes peremptorlie.

Compeired Mr James Allan in Dysert for refuseing to obey ane act of the sessioun of Dysert whereby he was convict of drunkenness and ordeaned to satisfie thairfoir ; continewed to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *March* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alexr Orrok of that Ilk, James Robertson of Newbigging, C. Andro Watson and Magnus Aytowne commissioners from the paroshe and towne of Burntiland desyreing of the Presbytrie that they wold nominate to them ane list of qualified men whereof ane wold be a qualified minister. The Presbytrie yields to thair desyre and nominates to them Mr John Duncan at Culross, Mr Ephraim Melvill minister at South Quensferrie, and Mr Georg Nairne minister at Camron, whereunto the said commissioners willinglie consented.

Compeired Sr John Mackenzie, Knyt of Tarbet desyreing earnestlie that he may be admitted to the covenant and communioun from the which he was suspended

till it had been tryed what accessioun he had to the lait unlawfull engagement whereupon being posed be the Presbytrie did acknowledge that he had resaved a commissioun for levieing a regiment in the north which he was now hartlie grieved for bot confessed that naither he for himself nor any other in his name did presente the said levie bot on the contrarie (being thair in person) did his uttermost for foirstaling the said levie; whilk also was testifyed be letters from the Laird of Brodie, Mr William Falconer, and Mr Joseph Brodie, ministers which all the Presbytrie takeing in thair consideratioun and finding the business still doubtsome could not for the present condiscend to his desyre having hard from a letter from the commissioun of the Generall Assemblie desyreing doubtfull caises of that kind to be referred to them did thairfoir referr the samyne to thair consideratioun how and how soon his desyre (considering the premises) myt be grantit. Compeired Alexander Wilson and Catherine Thomson in Weyms, for slanderous behaviour of adulterie both being married persons, whilk slander they both confessed bot denyed any actioun: referred to thair owne sessioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 28, 1649.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired John Law in Dysert for refuseing to obey ane act of the sessioun of Dysert whereby he was inhibit to sit in ane seate of the kirk whereunto he claimes some right bot can instruct none: remitted to the nixt day after the Synod. Ordeanes the clerk to give out a precept for requyreing the parochiners of Kinglessie to convene and stent themselfs for reparatioun of thair kirkyaird dykes and Bellhouse. Anser to the references from the Synod to the first.

The brethren dealt with the severall burghs anent the change of thair mercats from the Saturday bot prevailed not; onlie the Burgh of Dysert according to the act of the Synod changed thair mercat from the Saturday and becauss this hes taine great prejudice be thair neighbouring burghs not having done the lyke was forced to return back to thair former day. 2 Anent the reference for planting of scholes—The brethren recommends to the ministers of Ballingrie and Leslie, (the rest being planted) to plant thair scholes betwixt this and the last day of Junii wherein if they fail the Presbytrie resolves to appoynt some, according to the act of Parliament to stent these parochiners for the provisioun of thair scholes—To the 3, appoynts everie minister to bring the staite of his kirk the first day of meitting after the Synod. 4 Anent that whilk rests to James Murray that they bring it the said day; that the clerks fie addebtit to him be given to him at the Assemblie. Anent the further provisioun for the kirk of Baith and anent these moneyes collectit for the prisoners at Argiers and the Irish boy; remitted to the Synod. Catherine Griggs husband who was taken prisoner and carried to Argier and is now dead, thair craveing some of these moneyes may be given to hir for defraying of his debt in bringing up of hir bairne (she being in extreme povertie): anser referred to the Synod.

Reference to the Synod what sall be the censure of these women who marys one man and is with bairne to another. Mr William Nairne gave in ane declaratioun under his hand shewing that he was ignorant of that tak of the teynds of

Dysert whilk is done in his name without his knowledge or consent: ordeaned to be registrat *ad futuram rei memoriam*. Robert Smith a poore lame soldier recommended be the Presbytrie to thair severall kirks for support. Mr William Nairne his declaratioun appoynted to be registrat whereof the tenor follows:—

William Nairne, Minister at Dysert being certainlie informed be our sessioun that at sowmons raised at my instance aganest Lord Sinclair taxman of the teinds and the heretors of the said paroshe of Dysert befoir the commissioners for the plantatioun of kirks thair was decreit pronounced in Februarii 1648 be whilk an augmentation of 24 bolls victuall was added to my former steipend and thereupon prorogatioun granted to My Lord Sinclair of his teithes for thrie lyfrents and thrie nyntein years and conceiveing that I myt have been thought accessorie thairunto being done all at my name and at my instance thairfoir for cleiring my owne innocencie and manifesting to the world that I had no hand in the samyne decreit I doe here testifie and declaire in the presence of God who is the searcher of harts that the samyne decreit of augmentatioun and prorogatioun of the tax was grantit and passed altogither without my knowledge or consent I never hard the least purpose or intentioun of that effect; lykeas (I for the present) renounce and discharge all benefit of the said augmentatioun and seeing by the said prorogatioun of the said tax whilk was sett me onlie for my lyftime and thrie years thairafter (according to ane act of Parliament then established, I am not onlie circumvened bot the kirk heavlie prejudged and defrauded of hir just ryt; it is thairfoir my humble and earnest desyre that the said decreit may be recalled and maid voyd and the authors and contryvers of so scandelous and fraudlent ane deid brought to tryell and censure and that the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie who ar concerned wold act and bestirr themselfs in relatioun hereunto—

In witness of the premises I have subscryved thair presents at Dysert the 21 day of March instant 1649 befoir thir witnesses, Mr James Miller Scrib to our Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie and Mr James Craig precentor at our Kirk at Dysert.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr William Nairne, *Minister at Dysert.*
Mr James Miller, *Witness.*
Mr James Craig, *Witness.*

The brethren according to the laudable custome wer all severallie removed and censured and all of them approven both in thair lyves and conversatiouns.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

At Dumfermeline the 3 April 1649 sein and approven D. Dalgleish, N.P.

Kirkcaldie, *Aprile* 11, 1649.

The whilk day . . . . . Letters resaved from Edinburgh from commissioners of the kirk one whereof with six new psalm books to be perused at 2 merks the piece; item 15 copies of the acts of the General Assemblie at a merk the piece; item another letter anent the tryell of malignants; item another concerning the provisioun of kirks the estaits whereof ar appoynted to be brought the nixt day.

Anent the chuseing of the Moderator Mr George Ogilbie be pluralitie of voyces was chosen till the nixt Assemblie. Mr James Allan being sowmonit, called compeired not: to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2. Anent Kathren Griggs petitioun for some of these moneyes that wer collected for the relief of hir husband Adam Grigg, who was taken prisoner be the Turks and who is said to be now dead being recommended be the Synod to the Presbytrie, the Presbytrie thinks meitt that witnesses be examined befoir them to testifie of hir husbands death and ar content she should have 20 lbs presentlie out of the said moneyes and when she sall prove hir husbands death then to resave a certain proportioun thairof. Resaved a letter from the committee of Fyff at Cuper anent the fortifieing of Burntiland. The Presbytrie ar to tak the saymne of thair consideratioun as also for tryells and censureing of malignants.

DYSERT, *April* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Mr James Allan for not giving obedience to the act of the sessioun of Dysert aganest him. The Presbytrie allows the said act and remitts him back to the sessioun of Dysert, and finding him guiltie of malicious and untrue aspertiouns uttered be him aganest Mr James Wilsone, his pastor hath ordained that another brother of the Presbytrie sall preache for the resaving of his repentance both for his sinne of drunkeness and his other miscarriages in face of the Presbytrie whilk ordinance was intimate to him. Anent the persons in Weyms convict of adulterous behaviour the Presbytrie appoynts them each one to sitt upon the place of publik repentance in sackcloath and confess thair fault.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the commissioners of the kirk with 19 copies of the Confessioun of Faith Lairge and Short Cateches at 12 sh the piece.

DYSERT, *Maii* 9.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Bessie Ronaldson adulteress with Ludavik Toishes: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Mr David Orme minister at Monymeall present from the Presbytrie at Cuper for correspondence craved the Presbytries judgement anent the slander of adulterie of the Ladie Abercrombie. The Presbytrie continews thair anser till the mater be further tryed as also anent a slander of a midwyff in Markinche the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Fred to causs sowmonit hir.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert White and Janet Tennent his spouse produceing ane apellatioun from the kirk sessioun of Kirkcaldie anent ths process persewed be David Fergusone aganest the said Janet Tennent; ordeanes that the process be extractit and produced the nixt day.

Ordeanes the sessioun of Kirkcaldie to sentence Francis Hogg for slandering Robert White. Mr James Miller, Clerk regrated to the brethren that the Baillies of Kirkcaldie burdened him be quartering of soldiers upon him and urgeing him

with payment of monethlie maintenance . The brethren appoynts to writt a letter to the committee of estaits for his relief.

DYSERT, *Junii* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent David Fergusones process in Kirkcaldie with Janet Tennent spouse to Robert White, the brethren thinks it expedient that it be taine away in a friendlie maner and thairfoir appoynts thair brethren Mr Georg Ogilbie, Moderator, and Mr James Symeson to deall with them for that effect. The brethren appoynts the kirk of Auchterdirran to be visited this day fyftein dayes.

AUCHTERDIRRAN, *Junii* 20.

The visitatioun of the kirk of Auchterdirran holden within the paroshe kirk of the samyne be Mr Georg Ogilbie, Moderator . . . The Elders removed for thair tryells wer all approved be the minister bot regretted that they wer not so cairfull in delating nor some of them so sober as he wold wish them.

The minister also being removed the whole Elders approve him and praise God for him except James Abercrombie who complained that he having given in a complaint aganest one of his neighbours for calling him mainsworne yit got no justice : to the whilk the minister ansered that the sessioun thought it criminal and thairfoir above thair reach and thought meitt to ask the Presbytries judgement thairanent. The Presbytrie approves the ministers anser. The sessioun book of Auchterdirran committed to Mr Josua Meldrome to be visited. Mr William Livingston being present for correspondence from Cuper. Compeired Andrew Law in Markinch anent some malignant speeches uttered be him viz:—that these men whom they called malignants wer as honest as any other : denyes the samyne : sowmoned *apud acta* to compeire the nixt day and heir probatioun. Mr John Moncrief, Mr Fred Carmichael, and Mr Harie Wilkie wer chosen commissioners to the Generall Assemblie and Lord Elcho ruleing Elder who ar to report thair diligence after thair return when they sallbe requyred.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 27, 1649.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Walter Montray and Henrie Kilgour witnesses anent the speeches uttered be Andro Law in Markinche. The partie not being present the Presbytrie taks thair oaths *cum nota* that it sallbe leisome to the said Andro Law that if he have anything to object to them why they may not be witnesses he sallbe hard—whilks persons being deiplie sworne the said Walter Montray deponed, that he hard Andro Law say that these men whom they called malignants wer the honestest men in the kingdome; Henrie Kilgour deponed *ad idem*. Mr Josua Meldrome declaired that he had visited the sessioun book of Auchterdirran and approved it in all things except a process of James Abercrombies whilk was not put to a poynt whereanent the minister had given contentment to the brethren in his anser befoir. Reference to the Generall Assemblie what courss sallbe taken with maried persons who cohabits not togither. Compeired Margaret

Clark in Weyms confessed fornicatioun with Robert Brown in Burntiland: the said Robert ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

The commissioners to the Generall Assemblie craved the benefit of the act anent the furnishing of thair chairges and also thair places might be supplied dureing thair absence, whereunto the brether yielded. Compeired Andro Watson who upon his great oath deponed that he saw Adam Grigg husband to Kathren Grigg die and that he helped to burie him at Argier. The Presbytrie grants to give hir presentlie 20 lbs without prejudice of a more proportionable part of these moneyes that ar collected for the relief of these who ar taken be the Turks. The Presbytrie approves the commissiounes of Dysert and Kingorne for the Generall Assemblie.

DYSERT, *August* 1.

The whilk day the brethren mett viz, Mr Georg Ogilbie, Moderator, Mrs William Nairne, James Wilsone, Thomas Melville, Robert Bruce, Thomas Blak who wer advertysed by letter from the Moderator upon this occasioun that the time of Mr Georg Nairnes transportatioun from the kirk of Burntiland is come. Commissioners from Burntiland viz, C. Andro Watson, Alexander Dick and William Cuper desyred that the brethren considering thair great necessitie of a settled ministrie amongst them wold give out ane edict to be served the nixt Lords day for that effect. The Presbytrie appoynted Mr Robert Bruce to preache at Burntiland the nixt Sabbath and to intimate the edict to the fyftein day of August nixt warning all who had anything to object aganest Mr Georg Nairne that he might not be minister at the said kirk to be present the said day when they sallbe hard.

DYSERT, *August* 13, 1649.

The whilk day the brethren mett . . . . . Compeired C Brown and Da Seaton commissioners from Burntiland who returned the edict served and indorsat with a letter from Mr Georg Nairne shewing his purpose to be present at the day appoynted at Burntiland. The Presbytrie appoynts the Moderator to preache at Burntiland at the admissioun. All persons called at the kirk durr thrice who had anything to object aganest Mr Georg Nairne why he may not be resaved minister at the said kirk to compeire and declaire the samyne: none compeired.

A note resaved from the Clerk to the Generall Assemblie of 56 lbs 6 sh 10d debtfull be the Presbytrie to James Murray for books. Item 15 copies of the act of the Generall Assemblie concerning malignants. Item 15 copies of the causes of a fast and 15 copies of a warning, price of all 3 sh. The warning and causes of a fast to be read publicklie and the act anent malignants to be intimate.

BURNTILAND, *August* 15.

The whilk day after incalling upon the name of God and sermone preached be the Moderator, text 1 Cor 1. 2. 3. the brethren proceeded to the admissioun of Mr Georg Nairne minister at the said kirk of Burntiland. All persons agane being called at the kirk durr thryse who had anything to object aganest the said

admissioun to compeire and declaire the samyne: none compeired: and the admissioun was exped. The fast appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath.

DYSERT, *August* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . All reported that they had intimate the fast and read the causes thairof and Warning and intimate the act anent the Engagers. Mr John Cant in Burntiland reported a testimonial from the Universitie of St Androis of his honest cariage and of his diligence whereupon the brethren ar content to bestow upon him thair Bursers place for a year. Compeired James Abercrombie paroshiner of Auchterdirran anent one of his neighbours who had slandered him with perjurie. The Presbytrie remitts him to his own sessioun and appoynts him to be censured for his not communicating thir some years bygone. Isobell Beaton a distressed gentlewoman recommended to the charitie of the brethren. Mr Robert Bruce appoynted to keip correspondence with the Presbytrie of St Androis at thair nixt meiting. Sr John Weyms of Bogie, L. Collonell, David Wemys, L. Andro Wardlaw and C. John Bruce having hard the act anent Engagers read to them willinglie subscryved the samyne and remitted to thair severall sessiouns to satisfie the kirk—whilks persons above named wer remitted be the Generall Assemblie to the Presbytrie. Georg Wood, Colpney and Julian Wilkie his spouse being earnestlie recommended be the Generall Assemblie to the charitie of all the Presbytries benorth the Forth—the Presbytrie recommends them to thair particular sessiouns and appoynts thair act to be read in all thair kirks. Augmentatioun anent ministers stipends to be assaid by friendlie agreement.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . C. Angus Makantoishe and C. Alexander Weyms being referred be the Generall Assemblie to the Presbytrie for their accessioun to the lait unlawfull engagement subscryved the Declaratioun; remitts thair repentance to thair owne particular kirks. Laurence Dishingtoun a distressed gentleman recommended be the brether to thair particular sessiouns.

DYSERT, *September* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Bennett in Portmook for not communicating thir two years bygone as hirself confessed as not being reconciled to hir neighbour: ordeans hir to mak hir publik repentance befoir the pulpett and to be reconciled to hir neighbour that she may thairafter communicate, whilk she promeises to doe. Mr Harie Wilkie reported that he had gotten two hundreth merks promeised to him in augmentatioun of his stipend. The Presbytrie appoynts him to gett it ratified be the commissioners for surrenders. Mr James Symeson, John Moncrief and John Chalmer appoynted to deale with the Laird of Halyairds for augmentatioun of the stipend of Auchtertule. Mr Harie Rymour present from the Presbytrie of St Androis for correspondence. C. John Watson referred from the Generall Assemblie subscryved the declaratioun. A letter resaved from the committie at Cuper for owting and delateing all such in the armie as ar scandelous—

the brethren taks it to consideratioun. Mr John Moncreif, Mr Fred Carmichaell appoynted to speak and deall with the heretors anent the augmentatioun of the stipend of Skunnie.

The Presbytrie having hard the confessiouns of Elspeth Symson deteined in the steiple of Dysert for 26 weiks thinks the confessiouns sufficient grownd for seiking a commissioun aganest hir.

Resaved from Markinch for Georg Wood 4 lbs; item from Portmook 58 sh; item from Leslie 42 sh; delyvered to him.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Sr John Mackenzie Tarbet who being upon his journey presentlie to the north upon most urgent business subscryved the declaratioun and obliges himself be ane ticket subscryved be his hand to give full satisfactioun to the act of the Generall Assemblie after his return in the kirk of Kingorne and that betwixt this and Februarii nixt.

Report mad that Robert Brown is once cited publiklie in the Kirk of Burntiland to compeire befoir the Presbytrie for his fornicatioun with Margaret Clark; called compeired not: to be cited to the nixt day pro 2.

Mr James Symeson appoynted to try the conversatioun of Ninian Muir and the rest who wer upon the laite unlawfull engagement. The Presbytrie ordeanes intimatioun to be maid in all thair kirks that if they know any poynt of witchcraft aganest Janet Murray in Burntiland who is deteined in ward for the said crime that they come and declaire the samyne.

Resaved from Ballingrie for Georg Ward 55sh; Item for Lawrence Dishingtoune 30sh; Item from Auchterdirran for Georg Ward 56 sh; also given to Lawrence Dishingtoune 18 sh; Item from Kinglessie, for Geo. Wood, 3 lbs, and for Lawrence Dishingtoune, 58 sh; Item from Skunnie for Laurence Dishingtoune 4 lbs; Item from Leslie for Lawrence Dishingtoun 24 sh; Item from Portmook from themself 24 sh; Item resaved from Burntiland for Georg Wood 8 lbs; Item from Kirkcaldie for Georg Wood 24 lbs 4 sh; all delyvered to them.

DYSERT, *September* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert Brown in Burntiland confessed his fornicatioun with Margaret Clark in Wemys: the Presbytrie referres him to the Minister of Burntiland to try anent his fornicatioun whidder he be relapse or more and sowmons him *apud acta* to compeire this day fyftein dayes to heir himself sensured for disobedience. The Presbytrie approve the sessioun of Weyms thair diligence in trying of Jean Weyms who hes brought forth ane bairne to John Cunningham and is thought to have murthered the samyne who now being fugitive in Holland the Presbytrie delays hir censure till afterwards and withall appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie to deall with My Lord Weyms and My Lord Elcho that she may be brought back agane. Mr Fred Carmichaell reported that the heretors of Skunie ar content to give thair minister in stipend 8 chaulders of victuall. The Presbytrie

appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell and Mr John Moncreif and Mr Harie Wilkie, to sie that mater concluded.

The Presbytrie appoynts these brether who wer appoynted to speak with the Laird of Halyairds anent the augmentatione of that stipend to use thair diligence thairanent. Compeired Georg Strachan in the Levin presenting ane supplicatione in his owne name and in name of the rest of the inhabitants there that they may be disjoyned from there paroshe Kirk of Markinche from which they ar distant 4 miles and adjoyned to the Kirk of Skunie as most ewest being within half a mile to them. The Presbytrie thinks thair request reasonable and thairfoir appoynts these brether who ar to repaire to Skunie anent the settleing of that stipend to try the samyne and to report thair diligence and the Laird of Fingask with them. The Presbytrie having sein the testimonials of Georg Leslie approves him to be scholemaster at Leslie as also having sein the testimonials of Mr Arthur Bruce approves him to be scholemaster at Auchterdirran. Anent the superstitions keiping of Yuleday the brethren resolves to intimate the Sabbath immediatlie preceeding that such as fails therein sallbe severelie censured. It is regratted be the brethren that the act for restraining uncouth and sturdie beggars is not yit come to thair hands.

The brethren and ruleing elders according to the ancient and laudable custome wer all severallie removed for thair tryells and wer all approven as also the expectants who wer approven in thair lyves and conversationes and exhorted to tak paynes that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Resaved from Dysert for Georg Wood 12 lbs 18 sh and 4d—delyvered to him.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

25 Sep 1649, sein and approven, D. Dalgleish, N.P.

Eodem die delyvered to Walter Dalgleish 58 sh for all bygone Assemblies for Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *October* 3, 1649.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Blak was chosen Moderator till the nixt Assemblie . . . The Presbytrie having hard the delationes, dittayes and confessiouns of Janet Murray and Agnes Waterson in Burntiland who ar imprisoned for witchcraft, approves the minister and magistrates to seik commissioun aganest them. Mr John Moncreif reported that he and Mr John Chalmer went and spak to the Laird of Halyairds anent the provisioune of the Kirk of Auchtertule, bot could prevail nothing. The brethren appoynts Mrs James Symeson, James Wilsone, and Harie Wilkie to goe yit and deall with him. Compeired Agnes Junkin in Kingorne, adultress with Crispin Davidson there : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired Georg Low in Kirkcaldie declaired his sorrow for his accessione to the laite unlawfull engagement : subscryved the declaratione : remitted to his minister anent his repentance.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . George Low in Kirkcaldie and John Orrok in Burntiland who wer accessorie to the laite sinfull engagement wer resaved. The whilk day also Sr John Weyms, Commissioner for the rest of the heretors of the parochine

of Kirkcaldie in his owne name and thairs, craved ane visitatione of the kirk, whilk was granted to him and Mr Thomas Blak, Moderator, appoynted to preache thairat.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 17.

The visitatione of the Kirk of Kirkcaldie holden within the paroshe kirk thairof be Mr Thomas Blak, Moderator . . . . . The minister being removed for his tryell the whole elders wer severallie enquyred and sworne according to the Act of the Generall and Provincial Assemblies and being remembrit of thair oath severallie did commend his lyff and declaired they wer edified by his doctrin bot did complein that he did seldom catechise, that he did seldom visit families in landward and Burgh, that he was dificient in pressing familie exercise in private, that he was too credulous and readie to speak in publik on hearsay that he was negligent in taking away differences and reconcileing neighbours; being asked anent thair fellowship they regratted thair was no love amongst them. The brethren having hard that a certain elder had committed fornicatioun, asked whidder he wer suspended, or deposed untill he give evidence of repentance they anserit, not: being asked anent the scholemaster, gave him ane good testimonie. The minister being asked anent the elders, regratted that they keip no conscience in keiping the sessioun that familie worship was not in many of thair families. The elders being called in ar rebuked for thair want of love and negligent in setting up the work of God in thair families, and exhorted in the name of Christ, to whom they mnst give an accompt of thair office to be more faithfull and holie, they wer desyred also to provyde thair scholemaster according to the Act of Parliament; lykewayes thair Bailies ar exhorted to changeing thair mercats of Setterday and Moonday according to the Act of Parliament and Assemblie to whilk they promeise to give ane anser after they have convened thair counsell the nixt day. The minister being called in is referred to the nixt day becauss the foirsaid complaints requyred further consideratione.

The sessioun book was given to Mr John Moncreif to be visited. Sr John Weyms of Bogie in his owne name and in name and behalf of William, Erle of Dalhousie, Georg, Lord Melvill of Monymeale as his commissioun for that effect did cleir and beare desyre that the Presbytrie wold appoynt some to visit the landward of Kirkcaldie and to give thair judgement whidder ane other kirk should be built or not which they should be readie to doe upon the declaratioun of the Presbytries judgement of the necessitie of separatione of the landward from the present Kirk of Kirkcaldie and commodiousness of the place where the kirk should be built. The Presbytrie wer verie glaid of the motioun and ordeaned Mrs John Moncreif, Fred Carmichaell, John Chalmer and James Wilsone to visit the bounds of the landward and report thair judgement of the necessitie of a separatioun from the present Kirk of Kirkcaldie as also what sallbe the fittest place to which they may commodiouslie resort for the stance of the kirk intended to be built. Major James Bosuell, Patrik Kirkcaldie, Edward Hill and Ninian Muir, being desyred to be reconciled to the kirk, did profess thair grief for thair accessioun to the laitt sinful engagement in war

with Ingland subscryved the declaratioun of the Generall Assemblie 1649, and ar remitted to thair severall ministers to be resaved according to order onlie Major Bosuell is remitted to Auchtertule, becauss the scandel is most there.

Report being made be the visitors appoynted be the Presbytrie viz Mrs John Moncreif and Harie Wilkie to consider the incommodiousness of Innerleven in relatioun to thair present paroshe kirk of Markinche and commodiousness of the Kirk of Skunie as follows—

That Innerleven being four miles distant from the paroshe Kirk of Markinche and half a mile onlie from the Kirk of Skunnie in thair judgment ought to be annexit to the Kirk of Skunie—whilk report the Presbytrie doth approve and recommends the same to the Lords Commissioners of Parliament for plantatione of kirks for disjunction from Markinche and annexatione to Skunie.

DYSERT, *October* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren appoynted for visiting the bownds of the landward of Kirkcaldie and to consider both the great number and distance of parochiners did report as follows;—That besyds the Church within the burgh of Kirkcaldie for the present uselie attendit be tuo ministers that a Church should be erected in the landward for a distinct congregatione and considering thairwithall that there wer some places of the paroshe of Kingorne distant from the paroshe kirk thairof 4 miles and may be accommodate in this kirk within a mile or thairby viz, Tough easter and wester, St Ninians Chapell, found it also necessarie that they be seperate and made a part of the new intendit congregatioun for advanceing and settleing thairof the Presbytrie humblie recomended the same to the commissioners of Parliament for surrenders and tithes.

Mrs John Moncreif, Thomas Melvill, Frederik Carmichaell, and John Chalmer appoynted to speak to the Erle of Rothess anent the provision for the kirk of Ballingrie and Leslie. Compeired William Anderson and Thomas White, Baillies of Kirkcaldie, James Anderson, James Muir, and David Fergusone, commissioners for Kirkcaldie supplicateing the Presbytrie for thair concurrence in obteining of Mr Kenneth Logie present minister at Skirlin to be thair minister to which the Presbytrie heiring a good report of the man doe condescend and ordeanes a letter to be direct to the said Mr Kenneth earnestlie desyreing him to accept the call of the paroshiners of Kirkcaldie as also thair commissioners to deall with the commission of the kirk for that effect whilk they promeise to doe.

Mr James McGill present from St Androis for correspondence earnestlie desyreing that the brether wold concur with them at the commissioun for retaining some of thair number who ar in danger of being transported out of the shyre. The Presbytrie thinks the desyre reasonable and appoynts Mr Georg Nairne to goe to Dunfermeline to signifie that desyre to them lykways. A letter resaved from Mr Thomas Hogg with a process aganest Robert Durie for not communicating thir thrie last tymes: the brethren sowmons him *apud acta* to compeire the first day of meitting. Mr Georg Law and Georg Murdoe in Dysert acknowledged thair sinne

in thair accession to the laitt unlawfull engagement in Ingland and subscryved the declaration and wer referred to thair minister for satisfaction according to the order. The Presbytrie continewes thair nixt meitting till this day thrie weiks in respect of the necessar absence of these brether who ar on the commission and lykewayes of others who ar necessitate to be in Edr. Mr James Symesons business delayed till the nixt day in respect of a report of some new emergent in his preacheing.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 21, 1649.

The whilk day C. Alexander Naper compeired being cited be the sessioun of Kirkcaldie being asked whidder he was resolved to subscryve the declaratioun of the Generall Assemblie ansered that he was not yit fullie cleired concerning all the particulars of that declaratioun.

The Presbytrie referrs him to conferr with some of the brethren especiallie with his own minister for his further cleiring. Mr Fred Carmichaell reported that he had spoken with Sr Alexander Gibsone of Durie anent the stipend of Dysert and Skunie whom he found willing to give satisfaction thairanent for his interest. Mr John Chalmer is appoynted to deall with Halyairds anent the provision for Auchtertule. The Synod book returned and delyvered to Mr Josua Meldrome to extract the references and present them to the Presbytrie the nixt day. The Presbytrie considering the blasphemous speeches of William Graham salter in the Weyms who affirmed that he knew not whidder the sojours wer fighting for God and the King, or for the Devill and the Ministers doe enjoyn him to mak publik satisfactioun in sackcloath befoir the pulpett. A process led befoir the sessioun of Kennoquie aganest Robert Durie for thryse absenting himself from the communioun and refuseing to be reconciled to his neighbours being sein and he compeireing bot no wayes convinced of his guiltiness the brethren grants him a time to consider more seriouslie of his guiltiness and to be informed of the heynousnes of his offence. Resaved a letter from Mr Thomas Hogg conteining ane enclosed process aganest David Melville, elder of Kennoquhie for not comeing to the Presbytrie at command of the sessioun with a commissioun from them who while he was befoir the sessioun of Kennoquhie layed the blame upon his master Auchtermairnie who as he then allowed forbad him to obey the sessiouns commissioun bot befoir the Presbytrie he denyed that his master did altogither forbid him and that he niver undertook to bring Robert Duries process to the Presbytrie. Appoynts a letter to be direct to the sessioun of Kennoquhie for tryell of that mater.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr James Wilsone reports that these who ar appoynted to speak with Sr Alexr Gibson of Durie for his interest in My Lord Sinclair anent the provision of the kirk at Dysert had resolved to meitt for that purpose upon Thursday come eight dayes. Anent Mr Kenneth Logies entrie to Kirkcaldie the Presbytrie appoynts with Mr Kenneths consent the first Wednesday of Februarii for his admission and desyres the bailies of Kirkcaldie to have a sufficient securitie

for his stipend in readiness to be sein befoir the serving for Mr Kenneths admissioun. The minister at Portmook did verie much regrett to the Presbytrie the conditioun of the Kirk of Portmook that it was most ruinous and most incommodious situate as hath been oft declaired befoir at severall visitatiouns of the said kirk desyreing that the Presbytrie wold tak notice thairof. The Presbytrie in obedience to the act of the Generall Assemblie appoynting Presbytries to consider the fitness of the stances of kirks as might be most commodious for the whole paroshe taking to thair consideratioun the condition of the kirk of Portmook which the Presbytrie had oft also cognosered upon on thair severall visitatiouns of that kirk that it was most ruinous and incommodious situate the stance thairof being besyde the Loch of Leven and encompassed round about with a moss so that the passage thairto is difficult in sommer and impossible in winter to the tou part of the congregation gives commissioun to these of thair number viz, Mrs Fred Carmichaell, John Chalmer, and the Laird of Balquharg elder to goe and visit the bounds and to mak thair report to the Presbytrie of the fittest place for the stance of the kirk.

Compeired John Mitchell of Balbeardie for himself and having commission from James and Georg Edingtones of Babarton supplicating the Presbytrie for thair concurrence in the disjunctioun of thair lands from the kirk of Kingorne to the kirk of Auchtertule in respect of the distance from the one and the nearness to the other. The Presbytrie in obedience to the act of the Generall Assemblie appoynting Presbytries to tak notice of the situatioun of the paroshes within thair bounds the distance of people from thair paroshe kirks and of thair accomodatioun for heiring Gods word as also as anser to the supplicatioun presented to them be the persons befoir mentioned do nominate and appoynt these of thair number viz, Mrs Fred Carmichaell, John Chalmer and Georg Nairne thair commissioners to goe and visit the bounds and to try what is the distance of the said lands from the paroshe kirk of Kingorne and how neir they are to Auchtertule as also what other lands in any other adjacent paroshe may be most commodiouslie annexit to the kirk of Auchtertule. Recommends to these brethren who wer appoynted to deall with the Laird of Durie anent the stipend of Dysert to deall yit further for the provisioun of Skunie. Anent the censure of James Abercrombie in Auchterdirran who in face of the sessioun fell out in blasphemous speeches reproaching the sessioun viz.—Be the wounds of God ye are all false knaves, they think he should satisfie in sackcloath, befoir the pulpett. Gives warrand to Mr John Moncreif to delyver to Kathren Grigg whose husband being taken be the Turks (died in Argier and she hirself in great necessitie), 240 merks to mak up with that whilk she resaved befoir 300 merks of these moneyes that were collectit for relief of persons there.

DYSERT, *December* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the Presbytrie of St Androis concerning a meitting of some brethren of the whole four Presbytries to hold at Kennoquhie upon the 17 of this instant for falling upon some overtures for some effectuall way of putting the act of parliament anent the poore in executioun. The

Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Fred Carmichaell, John Moncrief, Harie Wilkie, Thomas Hogg, ministers, David Fergusone of Monturpie, ruleing elder to meitt there for that effect and Mr Georg Ogilbie to advertyse the brethren of the Presbytrie of Dunfermeline of the dyet. The brethren appoynted to visit the bounds of Portmook reported as follows:—First that the whole paroshe was about 2 Miles in length and about a mile and a half in breadth. 2. That the present kirk is most incommodiouslie situate environed with the Loch on the one syde and the moss on the other syde that it is totallie ruinous both in the walls and roof so that without great haisard the people cannot resort thither or stay divine worship, also that it is not of a capacitie to contain the parochiners it not being able to contein 300 and the number of communicants numbering 500 and above so that thair appears ane absolute necessitie of transporting the kirk as hath been declaired both by acts of the Presbytrie of the date August 3, 1636, June 18, 1640, at a visitatioun of the kirks and by ane act of the Provincial Assemblie of Fyff at St Androis, April 6, 1642, recommending the same to the Generall Assemblie. 3. That the town of Scotlandwell in which there are the walls of ane old church is the far most commodious for erecting a Church within that paroshe and one way called Calsey (it being the Kings heighway betwixt St Johnston and Burntiland) being helped none of the paroshe will have any just causs to except aganest the samyne since none of the paroshe is put in a worse caise naither in respect of distance or way and more than the 2 pairt eased a great deall both in respect of the neirness and goodness of the way there being also many houses for accomodatioun of people betwixt sermons whilk wold also be a means to preserve many travellers from profaning the Sabbath which ordinarlie falls out by reason of the present stance. 4. It was thair judgement that upon all these considerationns the Presbytrie should recommend the transportatioun of the said kirk to the commissioun of Parliament for valuatioun of teinds and plantatioun of kirks—which report the Presbytrie considering did unanimouslie approve and recommends the same to the commission for the planting of kirks and appoynts the minister to use diligence for that effect. The brethren appoynted be the Presbytrie to visit the bounds of the lands of Kingorne and Auchtertule and all other places adjacent thairto did report as follows:—That the lands of Balbairdie ar about 3 myles distant from the kirk of Kingorne and within 3 quarters of a mile to Auchtertule—Wester Babarton 3 myles or thairby from Kingorne and within three quarters of one myle of Auchtertule, Balmowto 3 myles from Kingorn and half a myle from Auchtertule, Pitkinnie 3 myles and a half from Kingorne, and within half a myle of Auchtertule, Lochhead 3 myles from the Kirk of Ballingrie and within 3 quarters of a myle to Auchtertule, which report the Presbytrie having considered doe humblie recommend to the commissioun for plantatioun of kirks the disjunctioun of the foirsaid lands from thair present paroshe kirks and annexatioun of them to the Kirk of Auchtertule.

Mr John Moncreif reported that he and others appoynted be the Presbytrie did speak with Durie anent the steipend of Dysert and had this anser given them:—That seing the minister and sessioun of Dysert did intend the reduction of ane

decreit obteined by My Lord Sinclair in relation to the teynds of the paroshe My Lord Sinclair's friend wold tryst no more in that purpose—as also that they had been speaking with him concerning his accessioun to the engagement in Ingland and had delyvered to him some papers emitted be the Church for cleiring to him the sinfulness of that courss which he promeised to peruse. Mr John Moncreif reported that he had delyvered the money to Kathren Grigg as he was appoynted. The Presbytrie appoynt the day of Mr Kenneth Logies admissioun to Kirkcaldie the 9 of Januarii notwithstanding the former appoyntment in Februarii in respect of Kirkcaldies urgent necessitie of a helper whereunto Mr Kenneth doth consent: the edict to be served the Sabbath eight dayes befoir Mr John Moncreif appoynted to preach the day of admissioun. Mr John Chalmer reported that James Abercrombie is refractorie to the ordinance of the Presbytrie; desyres that he may be sowmonit befoir the Presbytrie to heir himself declaired contumax which is granted. Resaved a letter from Mr Thomas Hogg declairing the gross prevaracatioun of David Melvill in Kennoquhie in denying that befoir the Presbytrie that which he had affirmed befoir the sessioun of Kennoquhie for which they suspendit him from his Eldership. The Presbytrie allows his suspensioun and remitts him to the sessioun. Compeired Robert Durie for his despiseing of the sacraments and refuseing to be reconciled to his neighbour, alledges law differences betwixt him and the parties which will tak a time to be cleired and thairfoir desyres a moneths delay which the Presbytrie grants.

Compeired C. Lymburner in Dysert, C. Alexander Naper in Kirkcaldie, Major James Law in Markinche who did all of them acknowledge thair grief and sorrow for thair accession to the sinful engagement in Ingland: subscryved the declaration and were remitted to thair ministers and sessiouns respectivelie. Appoynts these brether who visit the bounds of Portmook to meitt at Kirknes for settleing of differences betwixt the heretors in relation to the transportatioun of the kirk. Compeired John Cunningham adulterer with Jean Weyms: resaved his first injunctiouns.

The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr Georg Nairne minister at Burntiland to warn the Laird of Badrigg from the Gleib of Burntiland laboured be him and Mr Georg to possess himself of the samyne. Lieuetenant Collonell Cambell produced ane act of the Generall Assemblie appoynting Mr Georg Ogilvie to attend the charge of Lawers Regiment 3 moneths. The Presbytrie ordeanes Mr Thomas Melvill to perseu for the maintenance of the kirk of Kinglessie according to the late act of Parliament befoir the commissioun for the plantatioun of kirks. Mr James Symesons business in respect of his absence been delayed.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie resaved a letter from the Lord Chancellor desyreing a speedie courss to be taken for the plantation and provision of the kirks within our bounds as also requyreing a list of the provision of each kirk within our bounds as also desyreing a prosecution of the act anent the poore, which the Presbytrie took to thair consideration and resolved to obey accordinglie.

The edict being served upon Mr Kenneth Logie to be minister at Kirkcaldie, all persons who had anything to object aganest the same wer thrice called at the kirk durr : none compeired and thairfoir appoynts the admission to goe fordward.

The Presbytrie appoynts the Act of Parliament concerning the poore to be publiklie intimate in all thair kirks the nixt Sabbath.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januari* 9.

The whilk day Mr Kenneth Logie was admitted and resaved minister at Kirkcaldie. Mr John Moncreif preached, text 1, Peter 4, 10, ... Appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Georg Nairne to be witnesses of the removal of the unhappie differencies betwixt Robert Durie and Henrie Landles with Henrie Durie this day fyftein dayes in Dysert.

Compeired James Abercrombie in Auchterdirran, being rebellious aganest thrie publik citations is declaired contumax and ordeaned to obey the dicipline of the kirk under the paines of excommunication. The process of the sessioun of Auchterdirran being sein and allowed. Compeired Agnes Junken in Kingorne, adultress : resaved hir last injunctiouns. Compeired Sr William Douglas of Kirkness, presenting ane supplicatioun to the Presbytrie desyreing thair judgement whidder his lands be most ewest for Scotlandwell laitlie appoynted be the commission of surrender, and tyends to be the stance of the kirk in that paroshe where he now is, or for the Kirk of Ballingrie. The Presbytrie continews thair anser till this day fyftein dayes. The securitie anent Mr Kenneth Logies steipend being sein is considered and approven.

Appoynts Mr John Moncreif and Mr John Chalmer to speak the heretors of the landward of Kirkcaldie anent reparation of the ministers manss and payment of his bygone houss mealls since he removed from the manss.

The references of the Synod wer read and that concerning drunkenness and sweareing, and the brethren particularlie posed thairin who did all regrait that delations of these sins wer bot verie infrequent; as also the brethren wer particularlie posed what progress familie worship had made in thair bounds : declaired that they wer still persewing bot in no wayes with the desyred success. Georg Bosuell in Kingorne declaired his grief for his accession to the laite sinfull engagement in Ingland and subscryved the declaration of the kirk and was referred to his minister. The Presbytrie consents to supplie the chairge of Mr Georg Ogilvie in respect of his call to Lawers Regiment. Mr John Chalmer appoynted to goe yit agane to Halyairds to deall with him anent the provision of Auchtertule, and to shew him My Lord Chancelors letter to the Presbytrie. The Presbytrie in respect of the many business of this day could not enter on Mr James Symesons business.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 23.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie and Fred Carmichaell to speak to the Erle of Rothes anent the steipends of Leslie and Ballingrie. The Presbytrie after often dealing with the Laird of Halyairds and no appearance of the

least purpose to settle the kirk of Auchtertule hes appoynted Mr Joshua Meldrome, minister at the said kirk to use diligence in citing the Laird of Halyairds as also hes appoynted Mr John Chalmer who is commanded be the Presbytrie to use diligence for settleing of his own kirk to use diligence also for the furtherance of the kirk of Auchtertule. Appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell to try anent the censure of Andro Law in Markinche (who had been upon the engagement and had uttered some malignant expressiouns since) at the commissioun of the kirk.

Mr James Symesons business continewed be reason of his absence in Edinburt. Appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell and Mr Harie Wilkie to deall with Mr William Nairne, minister of Dysert that in respect of his age and inhabilitie for fulfilling all the duties of that charge he wold to the provisioun of a fellow-helper.

Sr William Douglas of Kirknes his supplicatioun agane read. The Presbytrie desyres a sight of the decreit of the Lords of the Commissioun for transplanting the kirk of Portmook to Scotlandwell and yit refers the anser of the supplicatioun to the nixt day. Mr Alexr Moncreif declairs that the sessioun of Skunie had referred a process aganest Mr James Cranstown to the Presbytrie who being sowmonit, called : compeired not : ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 2.

Compeired John Cudbert who had committed casual murder in Brechin and had entered his satisfactioun there desyres that he may fulfill the rest of his satisfaction in Dysert. The Presbytrie thinks it most fit seing the scandell is in Brechin that his satisfactioun for removall thairof be whollie there.

KIRKCALDIE, *Feb* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Sr William Douglas of Kirkness renewed his former desyre in his supplicatioun that the Presbytrie wold appoynt some of thair number to visit the bounds betwixt Kirknes and Scotlandwell. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer, Fred Carmichaell, Josua Meldrome, and Georg Nairne minister and the Lairds of Balquharg and Balram ruleing elders or any tuo of them to visit the said bounds and report thair diligence. Appoynts Mrs Thomas Melvill and Alex Moncreif to goe and meitt with the gentlemen appoynted be the Shyre at Faulkland for laying down a way of prosecuting the act of Parliament anent the poore.

Report was made that the heretors of the paroshe of Leslie did offer to the brethren sent be the Presbytrie 24 bolls of Meall augmentation—the whole steipend extending thairby to 4 chaulders of victual and four hundreth and 50 Merks in money which is thought be the brether too little for steipend as comeing short of the act of Parliament seing the tyends of the paroshe will bear the whole extent of the act. Mr Alexander Cornwall recommended be some reverend brethren of the ministrie elsewhere is desyred to be recommended to the brethren for charitie. Appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell, John Chalmer and Robert Bruce to concurr with others of the brether at the commissioun of parliament for plantatioun of kirks and in speciall on behalf of Mr Georg Nairne minister at Burntiland. The Presbytrie having enquyred concerning L Collonell Jarden and C Lymburner thair cariages

and heiring nothing bot good of them ar content to give them thair testimonial. L James Weyms presented a supplicatioun to the Presbytrie desyreing that the Presbytrie wold testifie that he had not bein censured be them as an engager which they could not deny seing nothing had come to thair knowledge which is thair judgement brought him under the compass of censure.

DYSERT, *March* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Report was made to the Presbytrie by Mr John Chalmer, Josua Meldrome and Georg Nairne and the Laird of Balram ruleing elder that they had visited the bounds of the Laird of Kirkness with reference to Scotlandwell and Ballingrie, and in thair judgement found that it was far more commodious for the Laird of Kirkness and his tenants to repair for heiring of the word to the Kirk of Ballingrie than to the Kirk of Portmook, aither in the old stance or wer it is designit to be in respect the lands of Kirkness ar bot half a mile distant from the Kirk of Ballingrie, and a mile and ane half distant from Scotlandwell, as also the way being good and passable at any time to the Kirk of Ballingrie, and an evill way to the other, and many times impossible to travel upon it, yea although the way wer made good in itself it will be dyvers times impossible to goe from Kirknes to Scotlandwell be reason of the great inundation of water at the mouth of the Loch of Leven, also the foirsaid visitors fynds the Laird of Kirknes and his tenants to be in no better caise for heiring the word be transportation of the said kirk.

Compeired John Arnott and presented ane supplicatioun in name of Sr Michael Arnott of that ilk, Charles Arnott, Walter Law, Robert Arnott, Georg Bickerton, Henrie Crowfoird of Powmill, David Balfour of Ballo, Andro Blair, requyreing that nothing should be done upon the visitation of Kirknes bounds while these gentlemen ar first called and hard.

The Presbytrie considering the Laird of Kirknes desyre and lykewayes looking to this supplicatione for removal of all the differences which have alreadie arrisen or may heirafter arise betwixt the Laird of Kirknes and the others heretors of the paroshe of Portmook, they judge it verie necessarie that there be ane submission of all parties to these ministers and elders following, to wit—Mrs Frederik Carmichaell, John Chalmer, James Wilsone, Henrie Wilkie, John Moncreif, with the Laird of Bogie ruleing elder, and for that a subscryved submission be condescended upon and returned betwixt and Tuesday otherwayes the Presbytrie will give a determined anser to Kirkness.

Compeired John Cunningham adulterer with Jean Weyms, declairing his great greif for his sinne desyreing a shortening of his repentance in regaird of his extreme povertie, he having nothing to entertain himself in the interim. Mr Harie Wilkie is desyred to speak with him the nixt Sabbath to see what further evidences thair ar in him and to report the nixt day. Compeired the Laird of Bogie desyreing the Presbytrie that they wold be pleased to writt a letter to the Presbytrie of Cupar and another to Mr Patrik Weyms that he may be appoynted be the Presbytrie to come and preache in Kirkcaldie at the earnest desyre of the heretors of the new

erected Kirk of Kirkcaldie on March 17 that they upon thair heireing of him may give him a call whereto the Presbytrie accorded and appoynted one of thair number to goe to Cuper for that effect.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren reported that they had read the declaration of the kirk aganest that which is entitled James Grahams declaratione. Process aganest James Abercrombie haveing bein read, hard and ccnsidered that fand it orderlie proceeded yit to convince him the more, appoynts some of thair number, viz. Mr Thomas Melvill, Georg Ogilvie and the Laird of Caskybarian to deall with him, and if they git not satisfaction of him he to be sowmonit to the nixt Presbytrie day.

Compeired Helen Miller trelapse in fornication to have resaved hir last injunctions bot finding no evidence of repentance referrs hir back agane to the sessioun of Leslie. Compeired Sr William Douglas of Kirknes who gives in ane ticket under his hand to the Presbytrie wherein he obliges himself to stand to the determinatione of the brethren and elders formerlie named be the Presbytrie for his part of the proportione of building the Kirk of Scotlandwell whereunto the Presbytrie goes on to consider the report made by the visitors foirsaid and unanimouslie approves the samyne and recommends to the Lords Commissioners of Parliament for plantation of kirks to disjoyne the towne and lands belonging to Sr William Douglas of Kirknes in the paroshe of Portmook, and anex them to the paroshe of Ballingrie. The Presbytrie having enquyred concerning the caryag of Mr David Law, L. Hill, Liev. Craw, L. John Bruce, and finding nothing to thair prejudice from any and thair Ministers giving them a good testimonie (excepteing onlie thair accession to the sinfull engagement in Ingland) wherefoir they have made satisfactione according to the order—ordeanes to give them testimonials. Andro Law in Markinche acknowledged his guiltiness by his accession to the sinfull engagement in Ingland, subscryved the declaratione and is remitted to his minister. The Presbytrie wer importunated by the friends of these who ar deteined in ward for the presumptione of witchcraft in Dysert and Burntiland that they wold give thair judgements whidder they sould be letten out upon caution or not; the Presbytrie ordeanes the brether to intimate the names of these persons deteaned in prison in thair severall kirks that if any have anything to declaire aganest them they might come to the Presbytrie and declaire the samyne. Mr James Wilsone is appoynted to meitt with the heretors of the new kirk to heir Mr Patrik Weyms preach and to moderate thair meitting for giving him a call. Appoynts Mrs John Chalmer and Thomas Melvill to speak to the Erle of Rothess anent the gleib of Ballingrie. Compeired John Cunningham, adulterer with Jean Weyms, declaireing his verie great grief for that his heinous sinne, and shewing the great strait he is reduced to of povertie; obteined the favour of abreviation of his repentance for some dayes and resaved his last injunctions. A letter resaved from the commission of the kirk anent the Hieland boyes and James Murray, with twelve

copies of the acts of the last Assemblie with as many acts of the degreis of consanguinitie at six shilling the tuo. Appoynts Mr Thomas Melvill, John Chalmer, Harie Wilkie, to speak the Baillies of Kirkcaldie anent the reparation of the kirk manss and paying Mr James Symeson houssmealls.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Robert and Thomas Whites, Baillies of Kirkcaldie desyreing the advyse of the Presbytrie concerning the repairing of the kirk manss of Kirkcaldie and payment of bygone houssmeall. Appoynts Mrs John Chalmer and Harie Wilkie to speak with the heretors of the landward for that purpose. Mr Thomas Melvill reported that he and Caskybarian went to James Abercrombie whom they found no ways sensible of his heynous faults and obstinacie who affirmed he wold doe nothing except he got a sight of the process: he being sowmonit befoir called: compeired not.

Ordeanes Mr John Chalmer to proceed with the process of excommunicatioun aganest him and withall if he supplicate aither the sessioun or Presbytrie for a sight of the process that he have it. Compeired Sr John Weyms of Bogie presented ane act of Kirkcaldie March 17, the copie whereof is this.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 17.

The whilk day the heretors and others of the paroshe of the new erected kirk of Kirkcaldie having hard Mr Patrik Weyms preach and having mett togither, Mr James Wilsone being with them wer so weill satisfied with the said Mr Patrik that they did concurr aud unanimouslie agree to call him to be thair minister and elected some of thair number to represent the same to the Presbytrie to desyre thair concurrence in goeing along with them to prosecute the calling of the said Mr Patrik. The said Sr John Weyms in the name of the heretors did declaire the unaminous consent in thair resolutiouns to call Mr Patrik Weyms to be thair minister and desyred that the Presbytrie wold and writt the Presbytrie of Cuper and send some of thair number to concurr and goe along with the heretors in dealling with the Presbytrie of Cuper that they wold interpose thair power with the said Mr Patrik Weyms for moveing him to imbrace the call.

The Presbytrie heireing a good report of the said Mr Patrik Weyms and considering the whole mater have granted thair desyre and hereby appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie to goe along to the Presbytrie of Cuper with the heretor foirsaid and to concurr with them in name of the Presbytrie to give thair call to Mr Patrik Weyms. A letter resaved from Mr John Moncreif shewing that he hes not yit recovered his sicknes and desyreing one of the brethren to be sent to Kingorne to preache for resaveing of Sr John Mackenzie his satisfactioun for his accessioun to the unlawfull engagement in Ingland. The brether appoynts Mr Georg Nairne to goe thither for that effect.

A letter resaved from the commissioun of the kirk concerning a fast to be keipt upon the first Sabbath of April for the reasons of the former fasts and for craveing

ane blessing from the Lord to the proceedings and travells of our commissioners with his Matie,and a brether reported that most of them had intimate the names of these who ar deteined in ward in Dysert and Burntiland for the presumptioun of witchcraft. All persons who had any dittayes aganest them being thryse called upon to compeire and declaire the samyne : none compeired. The Presbytrie in respect some brether had not yit intimate delayes the ansering to thair friends to the nixt day.

DYSERT, *March* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent sweareing and drunkeness the brethren regratts that they get few delations bot that they censures such as ar delated.

Anent the purging of sessiouns the Presbytrie referrs to the Provincial to consider what more effectual way may be taken for that purpose. For the mater of catechising it is the humble opinion of the Presbytrie that instead of the afternoons Directorie the minister might verie profitablie explaine some questiones of the Catecheses whilk they humblie present as thair overture to be considered by the Assemblie. Anent the act for the poore, referrs to the Synod that they will fall upon some overtures that act may be prosecute in ane uniform way.

Anent the Saltpans the Presbytrie recommends to the caire of the brethren whom it concerns that they wold endeavour to get the late Act of Parliament put to executione. Resaved from the Presbytrie of Cuper ane act subscryved under the Moderator and Clerks hands allowing the call of the parochiners of the new erected kirk of the landward of Kirkcaldie to Mr Patrik Weyms, adviseing Mr Patrik to follow the call given to him be the paroshe and Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, and to goe to the Presbytrie and to enter on his tryells in obedience whereof the said Mr Patrik Weyms compeireing befoir the Presbytrie submitts himself to them, and is content to obey the call, as also produced his testimonial from the Presbytrie of Cuper, bot desyres that the Synod be past befoir he be enjoyned any of his tryells. Mr Harie Wilkie reported from the Presbytrie of Cuper that it was thair earnest desyre that befoir Mr Patrik Weyms be settled thair, that the steipend be provided according to the Act of Parliament, and that the kirk be built with all expeditione, and the ministers manss builded and till that be done he be provyded with a sufficient houss.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Fred Carmichaell and John Chalmer to speak to the Erle of Dalhousie and other heretors for that effect, with all convenient diligence.

Appoynts a letter to be written to Mr Thomas Hogg to causs chairge Robert Durie and Henrie Landells to compeire befoir the Presbytrie.

Compeired L. James Cambell in Lawers Regiment desyreing a testimonial of his cariage during his residence in the bounds of the Presbytrie. The brethren having formerlie enquyred in these places where he had bein quartered meitts not with any objectiones aganest him ordeane to give him so much in writt. Compeired James Abercrombie craveing ane extract of the process led aganest him befoir the sessioun of Auchterdirran. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer

to give it to him. The Presbytrie allowing the process aganest the said James Abercrombie as orderlie proceeded did subscryve the samyne.

Anent the persons deteined in ward in Dysert and Burntiland for the presumption of witchcraft the brethren referrs the mater as a thing of great weight to the ensueing Provincial. Anent Mr James Symsons business which hes bein long interrupted besydes the former complaints of the elders this new emergent hath come to our hand, 1. That lectureing upon the 12 of Leviticus, he did fall in these expressiones giveing a reason wherefoir the tyme and dayes of the uncleaness of women after a maid child is langer than thair separation after a man child and is twyse so long because the superfluitie of issue is twyse so much as after the other so Hipocrates. 2. Wherefoir women wer subject to that infirmitie and issue of blood, moir than beasts and other creatures: anser—because it is Gods judgement and punishment on them for thair sinne.

When modest heirers wer blushing at this he said Hold up your heads and heir the good word of God it is not the word of Moses nor man. 3. It is alledged aganest him that he said upon the eighth psalm—Is not this a wonder that one drop of mans seed should become a man having eyes and nose and all this, of one drop of mans seed.

Observatiouns given in be Mr John Moncreif upon the sessioun book of Kirkcaldie. 1. Severall acts of Sessioun ordeaneing either bodilie or pecunial penalties as Januarii 11 tuyse in one page and warding in the steiple, May 23. 2. Syndrie delinquents found compeireing befoir the sessioun without mentione aither at delatioun or summons as May 23 and May 9. 3. A woman purging hirself be hir great oath of a slander and no diligence expressed in tryell befoir the oath, Januarii 23, 1649:—Alexander Herd appoynted to be sowmoned for alledgit drunkenes April 3 and no mentioun of it heirafter; Robert Lindsay not removed off sessioun notwithstanding of his known fornicatioune Julii 24; Robert White and Francis Hogg thair process endit by pryvate reconciliatioun notwithstanding of publik sowmons out of the pulpett; scholemaster and doctors fies paid out of the box, October 2. The whole particulars both of the elders complaints and of other new emergents the brethren layes forth befoir Mr James Symeson poseing him on them who ansereth as followes:—To the first thing in the elders complaint that he did seldom catechise he ansereth, that he did always catechise once a week except when was necessarlie withdrawn. To the 2 that he did seldom visit families and press familie worship he anserit his age and inhibilitie hindered him much in that. To the 3 that the communion was not given thir 2 years bygone: he ansered: True: bot he could not help it becauss he being alone could not get the people examined. 4. To the complaint that he was too credulous he altogither denyed it and said it was a calumnie. To that complaint that he was cairless in reconciling of differences: denyed: and alledgit it to be a calumnie concerning the expressiouns uttered in his preaching his anser is he grants he spak what is conteined in the alledgeance and thinks that no just causs of offence was given since Divynes writting on the 12 of Leviticus speaks so to that other expressioun one drop of mans seed etc: Anser: he spak so bot could not more

cleirlie express the wonderful works of God than by such a phrase for the observatiouns on the book he ansers to most of them that they ar the clerks and not his fault; concerning Robert Lindsays not removal of the sessioun: then ansers he was verie penitent; to Robert White and Francis Hoggs mater privatelie taken away notwithstanding publik citatiounes: ansers: it was thair owne desyre and the sessioun was contentit of it for preventing of evils whilk he otherwayes feared. The brethren seriouslie weighing Mr James ansers to all the foirmentioned particulars severallie gave out thair judgement as follows:—To the 1 the brethren thinks thair hes been some neglect in catechising. To the 2 they think his infirmitie and age doth much excuse his visiting of families. To the 3 concerning not giving the communion for 2 years not fullie satisfied with Mr James anser to the particulars concerning Robert Lindsay they think it was a verie great oversight. To that concerning Robert White and Francis Hogg they think he did too much in giving way to a private reconciliatioun without acquaynting the Presbytrie who had desyred him to goe on. To his expressiouns in his preaching on the 12 of Levit and anserit hereto they think they wer tuo indiscreit questiouns posed and ansered be him. To that from the eight psalm and the anser they think it was ane indiscreit expressioun.

The Presbytrie having verie long debaitted all the particulars and yit finding that tuo particulars to wit credulitie and cairlessness deponed be the elders bot denyed be Mr James could not be gotten cleir befoir the Provincial doe thairfoir delay the whole business to the nixt Presbytrie day.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 28.

The brether mett. Mr John Chalmer reported that he and Mr Frederik Carmichaell went to the Erle of Dalhousie anent the payment of Mr James Symeson houssmeall who promeised for his own part that he wold pay for preceeding Martimmes and that onlie be way of gratuitie bot to be no further restricted heirafter. Anent the repairing of the manss Mr James Symeson is content to pay the houssmeall adebtit provyding the towne will repaire the manss. The brethren according to the laudable custome of this kirk being severallie removed for thair tryells wer all approven.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

At St Androis 2 Apryle 1650. Sein and approven D Dalgleish clerk to the Synod of Fyfe, N. P.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 10, 1650.

The whilk day . . . . Mr Patrik Weyms his testimonial from the new College of St Androis sein and approven. The brethren gives him the Cowmonhead *De Usu Legis Sub Evangelico* to handel as a part of his tryells for the new erected kirk of Kirkcaldie.

A leitt being appoynted for chuseing the Moderator Mr Alexander Moncreif was chosen Moderator for the nixt synod. Mr John Moncreif be his letter craved of the Presbytrie that these persons who ar legallie disjoined from his parochine of

Kingorne bot not yit actuallie, thair may be such course taine with them that Mr Joshua Meldrome to whose kirk of Auchtertule they ar annexit may resave them and grant them the benefits of the kirk. The Presbytrie appoynts thair brethren Mrs Thomas Blak, Robert Bruce and Georg Nairne to meitt at the said kirk of Auchtertule upon Thursday the 25 of this instant and Mr Georg Nairne to preache there the said day and to recommend these who ar annexit thairto to the ministers, caire and the minister to them and in the meantyme appoynts Mr Joshua to baptise these bairnes of the new annexed lands who ar not baptised as also the Presbytrie discharges Mr Josua Meldrome from meddleing with any old process of scandelous persons in the foirsaid new and annexed lands and recommends them to the sessioun of Kingorne ; moreover the Presbytrie appoynts thair commissiouners for the kirk and some others of thair number to concurr with Mr Josua in secureing him in that part of his steipend whilk is to accress to him be these who ar to be annexed to him from Kingorne. Compeired Henrie Landells, elder with Henrie Durie who declaired themselfs willing to be reconciled with Robert Durie. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie, Fred Carmichael and Thomas Hogg to see the samyne done and with the Laird of Caskybarian ruleing elder and Mr Thomas Hogg to appoynt the dyet. Mr John Chalmer reported that James Abercrombie remaines yit obstinate and is tuyse prayed for anent his process of excommunicatioun. Anent Mr Thomas Hoggs apologie anent some speeches alledgit spoken be him the brether rests satisfied.

Mr Thomas Melvill reported that he and Mr John Chalmer spak the Erle of Rothes anent the gleib of Ballingrie.

The Presbytrie appoynts them yit with Mr Fred Carmichaell with the Laird of Caskybarian to speak him upon Friday nixt as also anent his accessioun to the laitt sinfull engagement. The whilk day also the Presbytrie appoynted Mrs Fred Carmichael, Alexander Moncreif, and Thomas Melvill to deall with Sr Alexander Gibson upon Monday at 10 hours anent his accessioun to the said laitt sinfull engagement. The Presbytrie grants to give L Collonell, Dav Weyms thair testimonial of his satisfactioun for his accessioun to the said sinfull engagement and appoynts the brether to enquyre anent the cariage of C Alex Weyms.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the visitatioun of the Kirk of Auchtertule to be the morne for resaving some of the parochiners of Kingorne annexed to the said kirk the Laird of Halyairds be his letter desyred that the Presbytrie wold be cairfull to sie that part of the steipend settled, whilk was to be taken off the new annexed lands befoir the resaving of them to Auchtertule.

The Presbytrie thinks fit to writt to Mr John Moncreif, to desyre him to settle his owne steipend for Kingorne, that part payable be them which ar annexed to Auchtertule may be payable thairto, and for anser to the Lairds letter, appoynts these who ar to meitt at Auchtertule for the visitatione foirsaid, to speak and deall with these heretors that order may be taken thairanent, and Mr John Chalmer may be with them and recommends to these brether who ar to attend the commission

for plantation of kirks to attend that business, viz. Mrs Fred Carmichael, Alexr Moncreif and George Ogilvie. Mr John Chalmer reported that James Abercrombie is 3 prayed for. Mr Fred Carmichael reported that he and Mr Thom Melvill and Mr John Chalmer had spoken the Erle of Rothes anent his accessione to the laitt sinfull engagement who promeised to conferr with his owne minister thairanent, who he hoped should give contentment. The Presbytrie ar content that everie minister sall give Henrie Kairns, kirk beddell, 4 sh when they exercise for his attendance at the Presbytrie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent Wardlaw and Alexander Weyms having satisfied the kirk for thair accession to the late sinnfull engagement, appoynted to get thair testimonials. Mr Kenneth Logie and Mr Josua Meldrum, ministers; and James Bosuell ruleing elder, appoynted to goe to Burntiland upon Tysday nixt and to deall with the paroshiners for a fellowhelper in thair ministrie and Mr Kenneth Logie to preache thair the nixt day. The Synod book returned is committed to Mr Kenneth Logie to mark the referrs therein to the Synod. The Presbytrie having sent Mr Alexander Moncreif, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr Fred Carmichaell, Ministers; and the Laird of Caskybarian, ruleing elder, to understand of Sr Alexander Gibson of Durie, his judgement concerning the engagement being dealt with befoir be the Presbytrie for that effect, the foirnamed brethren reported that Durie declaired unto them that after many debaits with himself, as also having conferred with the brethren sent to him lykewise having considered all the papers that passed betwixt the General Assemblie and thair commissioners and the parliament, the which befoir he had not sein, bot now had considered, and by all these is convinced of the sinfulness and unlawfullness of that engagement wherein he was verie active and confessed he was readie to have done more if it had bein in his power bot blissed God he had now sein the evill of that way, and was cordiallie sorrie for the same, and is willing to doe anything he should be enjoined be the kirk in satisfaction thairfoir.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Jane Weyms, adultress with John Cunningham for resaveing of hir first injunctions (haveing fled befoir) who acted hirself that if she sall flee again to tak upon hirself the murther of hir bairne. The Presbytrie advyses Mr Harie Wilkie, hir minister, to speak to the Erle of Weyms to assure hir byding.

DYSERT, *Maii* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren reported that they had keipt the thansgiving for the apprehensioune of James Grahame sometime Montrois. Compeired Mr James Cranstown to anser to ane process of the sessioun of Skunie aganest him for alledgit drunkeness, who alledges informalitie in the proceedings aganest him; sowmonit *apud acta* to the nixt day. The Presbytrie inhibits Mr Josua Meldrome to give to Robert Toy murtherer any benefit of the kirk. The whilk day also the Presbytrie admitts Mr John Lawmouth to be scholemaster of

Kennoquhie upon Mr Thomas Hoggs desyre be his letter. Mr John Chalmer reported that he had prayed thryse publiklie for James Abercrombie. The Presbytrie appoynts him to proceed to the sentence of excommunicatioun aganest him upon Sonday come eight dayes. John Malcolm, servitor to the Erle of Rothess craved that the brethren wold send to My Lord the anser of his Ls letter sent to them.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Thomas Melvill, James Wilson and Caskybarian to repair to his L and desyre his L to disclaime his accessioun to the late sinfull engagement publiklie and that he subscryve the declairatioun sent to him whereof the tenor followeth :—Whereas it hath bein my weakness in the day of temtatioune to approve of the sinfull engagement and to have bein accessorie thairto in any measure I profess my grief for it in the sight of God and am now convinced of the evill of that corss and for the time to come I promeise (by the grace of God) never to be accessorie to any corss contrair to the word of God, prejudicial to religion and the work of reformatioune and sallbe zealous to promote the ends of the covenant according to my place and power.

The prosecutione of Mr James Symesones process which was not exped till this time.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 24.

The whilk day Robert and John Whites, William Andersone, John Colyear, James Andersone, David Fergusone, John Williamsone, William Bervie, Matheu Andesone, James White, being sowmonit appeared all except Robert and John Whites who wer not in the towne, which persons being gravelie remembered of the oath they gave at the lait visitatioune of the kirk and particularlie asked one by one if they wer the persons who regratted Mr James Symesons rashness in speaking from the pulpett from heirsay and also his negligence in reconciling persons at difference, ansered all negativellie. The Presbytrie having found nothing from the foirsaid persons and being confident that the foirsaid particulars wer complained of at the laitt visitatioune thought good to sowmoned the persons not compeireing with some others and gives order to that effect to sowmon the persons following viz :—Robert and John Whites, Thomas White, C Alexander Herd, John Hogg, James Baxter, John Symeson, Thomas Wilson, elder and younger, James Law, James Meldrome. It was also resolved that the Moderator should writt according to the Synods ordinance to the severall Presbytries that the persons appoynted to be judges in this purpose may meit upon Wednesday come fourtein dayes the 8 of Maii at Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 1.

The whilk day the foirsaid persons who wer ordained to be sowmonit appeared all except James Law and Thomas White, who are ordeaned to be sowmonit to the nixt day and being gravelie asked anent the foirsaid greivance, whidder they deponed to the foirsaid particulars at the laite visitatione all ansered negativelie except Robert and John Whites. The said John Whyte declaired that Mr James

Symeson was too readie to come to the pulpett upon heirsay, and being demandit to give one instance, he said that about six years ago he said from the pulpett—Some playes the monarch in the towne, which he constructed to be meant of James Law in relatione to Halkheads Mill, whilk was then in selling, further, he said he was over careless in reconcileing people, and for instance he gave the variance betwixt John Williamsone and his owne brother. Robert White being gravelie remembrit of his oath and asked as said is, ansered for his credulitie, he remembered about six years since he spak something anent Halkheads Mill, and for his carelessness to reconcile people at variance he ansered also affirmativelie, bot could give no other instance except that variance betwixt John Williamson and his brother.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 8, 1650.

The whilk day convened with the Presbytrie according with the Synods ordinance, Mrs David Forrett and Henrie Rymour for St Androis, Mr William Levingstone for Cuper, Mrs James Sibbald and John Duncan for Dunfermline. James Law being sowmonit to this day appeared not, and being sent for refused, wherefoir he is ordeaned to be sowmonit the nixt day at Dysert. Thomas White being sowmonit, compeired, and being remembrit of his oath, ansered the foirsaids questions negativelie, asserting also the whole Presbytrie would hardlie reconcile some of thair congregations.

The Moderator, haveing particularlie asked the severall members of the meiting whidder or not they judged these two particulars that were deponit anent Mr James Symesons credulitie and neglect of reconciling of neighbours to be proven did judge that the deponent viz Robert and John Whites has failed in the probatione and that the Presbytrie sold talk to thair further consideratione the dispositione of such a nature. The whole brethren being asked particularlie what thair judgement was of the particulars deponed at the visitatione ansered they wer of the Presbytries judgement delivered thairanent in March 27, 1650, as also they wer of the Presbytries mind anent the new emergent. Mr James Symeson being called in and asked of his sense of these expressiones, ansered that after serious thoughts, he was sorrie that he had given offence and desyred God to pardon him for Christs sake. The brethren having hard Mr James and considered the particulars deponed, the question was moved whidder or not this new emergent with the other particulars deponed, maks Mr James liable to that act of censure aganest him at Kirkcaldie, Julii 10, 1646, and is ansered be all negativelie. The meiting gravelie considering the whole mater of the process doe judge as follows :—Whereas the Synod of Fyff finding in the Presbytrie buik of Kirkcaldie a process of Mr James Symesons imperfyte did referr the whole consideration to further tryell, and judgeing thairof to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie with the assistance of two brethren and a ruleing elder from each of the other Presbytries in the Shyre viz Mrs David Farrett and Harie Rymour, ministers ; and Auchmowtie for St Androis. Mrs John Ramsay and William Levingstone and the Laird of Forther for Cuper, Mrs James Sibbald and John Duncan, ministers ; and Robert Bruce ruleing elder for Dunfermeline. The Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie haveing taken full tryell of the two particulars in the

process did acquaint the Commissioners from severall Presbytries accordinglie mett with the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, and having taken to thair consideratione the whole process, fand the two particulars to wit his credulitie and neglect in reconciling differences not proven, and having considered the whole particulars with the complaint thairof and having hard his owne declairatione of the sense of his greif for his indiscreet expressions finds that he ought to be sharplie rebuked by the Moderator in face of the meitting, as also to mak professione of his repentance befoir the people, upon a Sabbath in the heiring of two brether appoynted to be present with certificatione that if he be found heirafter guiltie of any such failzie as savours of disaffectione to the publik cause, or any rubb upon the publik judicators of the kirk, or shall utter the like indiscrect or immodest expressions as formerlie, or shall fall in any palpable renued ommission in the duties of his calling in that caise the Presbytrie ar to remember all the former particulars for the agreeing of his further censure. The brethren who ar appoynted to be witnesses to Mr James Symeson his declaratione of repentance for his immodest and indiscreet expressions ar Mr Georg Nairne and Mr Josua Meldrome.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 22.

The whilk day Mr Georg Nairne and Mr Josua Meldrome did report that Mr James Symeson according to the appoyntment of the meiting acknowledge that he had by his immodest and indiscreet expressiouns given just occasioun of offence to the people of God wherefoir he was trulie sorrie wherewith the Presbytrie ar satisfied.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 29, 1650.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the anser to the Laird of Arnets letter anent the new kirk to be erected in the paroshe of Portmook (the submissioun betwixt him and Kirkness being expyred) the Presbytrie appoynts to writt to him thair anser and to send Arnets band to Kirkness to advyse with and to deall with the Laird of Kirkness to subscryve of new agane.

Appoynts Mr John Chalmer to goe to him for that effect and to shew him Arnets band and to report his anser to the nixt day to which time the anser to Arnets letter is continewed. Compeired Mr James Cranstown to anser for his drunkeness and misbehaviour befoir the sessioun of Skunie and befoir the Presbytrie replyed that Mr Alexander Moncrief had rounged his coyne and mixed his mettell: censure continewed to the nixt day and be sowmonit *apud acta* to be present. The commissiouners sent to the Erle of Rothess made thair report shewing that he was content to subscryve the paper sent to him and did return a letter to the Presbytrie subscryved be his L containing the same words foirsaid moreover his minister declaired he had disclaimed his accessioun to the sinfull engagement having acknowledged his greif for the samyne in face of the congregatione and thairfoir he subscryved the league and covenant.

DYSERT, *Junii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Chalmer reported that he had excommunicat

James Abercrombie upon Sonday last who not restraining himself bot troubling the kirk wold not depart from heiring of prayer.

The Presbytrie allows to get a warrand to ward him and his excommunicatioun is to be intimate in all the kirks of the Presbytrie. Appoynts the kirk of Portmook to be visited this day fyftein dayes and Mr Georg Nairne to preache at the visitatioune. Compeired Mr James Cranstown for his misbehaviour befoir the sessioun of Skunie and Presbytrie. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to acknowledge his fault publiklie befoir the pulpett of Skunie as also befoir the Presbytrie whilk last part he presentlie obeyed.

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Weyms is appoynted to give tryell of his knowledge in tongues with his exercise viz psalm 119 sect 2 for his Hebrew and in Greik *ad apperturam libri.* Resaved a testimonial from Mr Colin Kennedy of his cariage in St Androis subscryved be Mr Samuel Rutherfoird wherewith the brethren rests satisfied. Mr Harie Wilkie reported from the Bailies of Kirkcaldie anent the change of thair Saturdays mercat that they promeise to doe the samyne and to intimate it be took of drum whilk they did . . . Sr John Weyms of Bogie compeiring desyred that the lands of Easter Baglillie and Babarton might aither be annexed to the new erected kirk and contribute with them or otherwayes not to come there at all. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer to acquaint Generall Leslie thairwith and Mr Harie Wilkie to acquaint Mr John Moncreif.

Mrs Fred Carmichaell and John Chalmer reported that they had spoken the Erle of Rothess anent the kirk of Ballingrie who promeised to give contentment.

Compeired Crispian Davidson adulterer with Agnes Jankin: resaved his last injunctiouns bot continewed till the brethren see more evidence of his repentance. Referrs the process of Burntiland anent the witches to the nixt day.

PORTMOOK, *June* 19, 1650.

The whilk day the Kirk of Portmook was visited be the brethren . . . Anent the transportation of the Kirk of Portmook, Sr William Douglas being absent sent his letter of necessar excuse whilk was accepted promeising to give contentment as befoir; also Mr Robert Cornwall in name of Sr William Balfour doer for My Ladie Mortone promeised in hir name to doe what sould be competent for hir L. . Mr Frederik Carmichael desyred that the brethren would send some of thair number to visit his manss whilk is verie ruinous. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Alexr Moncreif and Mr Harie Wilkie, ministers; and the Laird of Caskybarian ruleing elder, and James Pitcairne with them to repair thither for visiting the samyme the morne fyftein dayes. Anent the chuseing of commissioners for the Generall Assemblie the brethren Mrs Fred Carmichael, minister at Markinche, Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie; Mr John Chalmer, minister at Auchterdirran, ministers; and Mr James Schoner, of Caskybarian, ruleing elder wer chosen Commissioners,

KIRKCALDIE, *June* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved a letter from the commission of the kirk, anent a fast to be keipt the nixt Sabbath in respect of the great danger of the countrie by reason of the aproaching of the enemie from Ingland and sundrie other weightle reasons. Mr Patrik Weyms gave tryell of his knowledge in the Hebrew tongue and in his Greik viz Rom. 12. The Presbytrie appoynts him to preache a popular sermon this day eight dayes in Kirkcaldie, and gives him for text Philip 2, 11 and 12 verses as also to anser his questions.

Mr Thomas Blak reported that he went to Skunie for resaving of Mr James Cranstown who in his cariage did behave himself more scandelouslie than befoir : appoynts him to be sowmonit to the nixt day.

Compeired James Bairdner confessed fornication with Janet Kilgour, she also compeiring and being confronted constantlie denyed. He is appoynted to satisfie for his confessed fornication and she continewed for further tryell. Appoynts Mr Kenneth Logie and Mr Georg Nairne to goe to Innerteil and heir the young man who is to be chaplain there.

The Presbytrie having hard and considered a process of witchcraft aganest Elspett Austein in Burntiland thinks the things proven against hir of such weight that they ar grownd enough to seik a commission upon to put hir to ane assyse. Anent Robert Toy, murtherer, spared be the civill magistrat, the Presbytrie remitts him to the place where he committed the murder to mak his repentance there. Appoynts Mrs John Chalmer and Harie Wilkie to speak to the Bailies of Kirkcaldie anent the reparation of thair ministers manss and changeing of thair Saturdays mercat. A letter being sent from the parliament appoynting Mr Alexr Moncreif to repair to St. Johnstone to attend Pitscotties Regiment the Presbytrie referrs the samyne to the Generall Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Mr James Cranstown to anser for his misbehaviour in the Kirk of Skunie when he was to have bein resaved in acknowledging his fault publiklie. The Presbytrie having hard him declair the sense of his greif and sorrow for that his guiltiness, did remitt him to conferr with his owne minister or any other member of the Presbytrie betwixt this and Monday nixt and to compeir heir the said day. Anent the visitatione of the kirk manss of Markinche the Presbytrie appoynts the former visitors and Mr Thomas Blak and the Laird of Pityocher to meitt with them for visitatione thairof. The Presbytrie desyres some brethren to speak of Mr Alexr Moncreifs business with the Laird of Durie. Major James Bosuell and Captain Watson being upon the unlawfull and sinfull engagement and having given satisfaction ar to get testimonials.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 8.

The whilk day . . . . . C Walter Bosuell having satisfied for his accessioun to the unlawfull and sinfull engagement subscryved the declaratioun and is appoynted to get a testimonial. Georg Cristall in Dysert now captive with the

Turks in Argier his pitifull estaite being regretted to the Presbytrie they are to tak the samyne to thair consideratioun the nixt day. Mr Alex Moncreif reported that Mr James Cranstown had given him contentment for his first miscariages wherewith the Presbytrie ar satisfied and for his last miscariage and malignantie and complying with James Grahame they ordeane him to come befoir the pulpett on Saturday (being the preparatioun day befoir the communioun) and confess these and upon the Sabbath to come agane befoir the pulpett and confess all and be resaved and communicate.

Appoynts Mr Josua Meldrome and Mr Georg Nairne to goe yit agane and speak the bailies of Kirkcaldie anent the change of thair Saturdays mercat and reparatioun of the ministers manss.

Julii 16.

The whilk day . . . . . Resaved a letter from the commissioners of the Generall Assemblie anent a voluntar contributioun for outputting of a regiment for the ministers in this present necessitie of war viz that everie minister that hath ane thousand lbs in stipend sall give 2 hundreth merks and who hes eight hundreth punds in stipend shall give ane hundreth punds and who hes less sall give ane hundreth merks whereunto the brethren present most willinglie yielded and delyvered the same presentlie to Mr Thomas Melvill to be delyvered be him for that effect. The Presbytrie having sein a testimonial of Mr Andro Skeins who had remained in Auchtertule for a space and hard the ministers testimonie of him of his behaviour dureing the said space they give him also thair testimonial.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts Mr Patrik Weyms to handle the 2 Peter 2, 9 verse for his popular sermon this day eight dayes. Report made that Mr James Cranstown had satisfied as he was enjoyned. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that everie brother during this troublous time conveine the people upon Tysday and Friday for exercise.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 14.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Weyms delyvered his popular sermon as appoynted, doctrin censured and allowed: appoynts him to anser to his questiouns the nixt day as also to lecture upon the 7 of Mica to the 9 verse and thairafter to preache upon the 9 verse as appoynted be the Synod. Anent James Bairdner it is ordeaned that he be gravelie spoken to in declairing his repentance in Auchterdirran befoir the congregatioun and Janet Kilgour to be put to hir oath in time convenient.

DYSERT, *August* 21, 1650.

The whilk day Mr Patrik Weyms preached as he was appoynted, doctrin censured and allowed: his questiounes continewed. A letter resaved from Mr Georg Ogilvie who is at the armie desyreing his place to be supplied with preaching. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Josua Meldrome to preache there the nixt Sabbath.

Alexander Finlay compeiring for his fornicatiouns and disobedience to the sessioun of Burntiland is ordeaned to sit half a year upon the place of publik repentance the half thairof in sackcloath.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Mrs Thomas Melvill and Josua Meldrome reported that James Abercrombie had come to them and declaired his sorrow, craving to be resaved agane into the bosom of the kirk from his excommunicatione.

The Presbytrie continews him till further tryell, Mr Josua Meldrome and Mr George Nairne reported that they spak the Bailies of Kirkcaldie anent the changing of Saturdays mercat bot got no satisfactorie anser.

The Presbytrie quits farder dealing with them bot remitts them to the Commissioners of the kirk. The sessioun buiks ar appoynted to be brought in the nixt day that they may be visited. Mr Kenneth Logie and Mr Georg Nairne reported that they hard Mr Colin Kennedy the young man in Innerteyle, and gave him thair approbatione. The Presbytrie rests satisfied.

DYSERT, *September* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Patrik Weyms his questions continewed in respect of the many absents by reason of the present troubles. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that thair be a meitting of the ministers in the shyre in Falkland upon Friday nixt and for that effect appoynts Mr Georg Nairne to advertyse St Androis, Mr Josua Meldrome to advertyse Dunfermline, and Mr Pat Weyms to advertyse Cuper in respect of thir present troubles.

Compeired Janet Kilgour who confessed fornicatioun with James Bairdner, whilk she had often denyed befoir: ordeanes hir to sitt more dayes than ordinar bot remitts hir to hir minister.

DYSERT, 18, 1650.

The whilk day . . . . . A fast is appoynted to be celebrat the nixt Sabbath with the causes contained in a declaration from the Commissioners of the kirk mett at Stirline. James Abercrombie compeireing and craveing that he may be relaxed from his excommunicatione: the Presbytrie continews him yit as not seeing him sad enough.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Kenneth Logie be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Assemblie. Anent the Laird of Bogie the Presbytrie declaires that befoir his accession to the sinfull and unlawfull engagement (for the whilk he satisfied) and sensyne he hes behaved himself honestlie and christianlie, and appoynts to give him thair testimonial.

At Couper, 5th *November* 1650—Sein and approven. D. Dalgleishe, N. P.

Anent the seatt of the Presbytrie the brethren appoynts that during the time of

thir present troubles to meitt constantlie in Kirkcaldie. Anent the supplication of the Bailies of Kirkcaldie craving that the brether wold tak to thair serious consideratione thair burden in cureing the woundit souldiers impossed upon them be the Commissioners of Estaites, the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Josua Meldrome to visit them. Mr Patrik Weyms being tryed in his questions is approven be the brethren in this poynt of his tryells. C Walter Nairne being recommended to the Presbytrie be the Commissioners of the kirk anent his accession to the lait sinnfull engagement subscryved the declaration and was referred to the sessioun of Dysert.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . All the passages of Mr Patrik Weyms his tryells being read and found approven in the particulars the brethren approves them all in the general and adjudges him meitt for the place and appoynts ane edict to be drawn up aganest this day eight dayes for his admission. The Presbytrie accepts of Mr John Burn, a young man, and well reported on Chaplane in the Weyms to remain there and appoynts Mr Kenneth Logie and Mr Fred Carmichael to repair thither and heir him.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts the brethren to try if any of thair bounds had any accessioun to the Kings eschape from Sanct Johnstoun to the North.

The brethren recommends to give thair recommendatioun to Major James Bosuell, C Alexander Weyms and James Law referred to the commissioun of the kirk anent thair accessioun to this sinfull engagement in England.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . William Erle of Dalhousie, John Lord Melville and Sr John Weyms of Bogie compeireing desyred that the Presbytrie wold appoynt a day for resaving of Mr Patrik Weyms, minister at the new erected kirk. The brethren appoynts Monday nixt the 4 of November for his admissioun at Abbotshall and Mr Kenneth Logie to preach thair the said day. A letter resaved from the commissioun of the estaite for a collectioun to be gathered for the relief of the prisoners deteined in Durham and Newcastel in England appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath and collected the Sabbath following. Also ane other letter resaved anent a meitting of the kirk appoynted to be at Stirline upon the 14 day of November whereat not onlie the commissioners bot a great many of the brethren ar appoynted to be present.

The brethren being all severallie demandit if aither they themselfs knew anything or if they had learned anything be trying from others of the Kings eschape from Sanct Johnstoune to the North all ansered negative. Major James Bosuell and C Alexander Weyms referred back agane to the commissioun of the kirk to be conferred with anent thair accessioun to the laite sinfull engagement. Mr Kenneth

Logie and Mr Thomas Blak gave thair report on the young man in the Weyms Mr John Burn wherewith the Presbytrie ar satisfied.

ABBOTSHALL, *November* 4.

The whilk day the brethren being mett for resaving of Mr Patrik Weyms minister at the new erected kirk viz, Mr Kenneth Logie, Moderator, who preached the said day and had for Text Jeremie 3 15.—Mrs James Symeson, Georg Nairne, Josua Meldrome, John Chalmer, Thomas Melville, Robert Bruce, Thomas Blak, resaved the said Mr Patrik minister. The commissioners for the Generall Assemblie being to repair to Stirline according to the appoyntment the Presbytrie deputes alls many of the brethren as convenientlie may to be present thair also. The Presbytrie appoynts to give Major Bosuell and C Alexander Weyms thair recommendatiouns. The Presbytrie referrs C Alex Nairne to the minister of Dysert. The sessioun book of Auchtertule being visited is approven.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Alexander Finlay in Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun and disobedience to the ordinance of the sessioun craveing some mitigation of his sentence whilk the Presbytrie refuses to doe in respect of his disobedience hitherto. Mr John Chalmer, produced ane ticket of reseat from Duncan Nairne in Stirline of 48 lbs for the prisoners deteined in Ingland. The rest ar appoynted to delyver thairs to the Moderator. The Presbytrie ar content to bestow thair Bursers place upon Mr John Carmichell sonne to Mr Fred Carmichael. Compeired Janet Fairman in the congregatioun of Markinche confessed hirself with bairne (as she affirms) to James Robertson hir Uncle so that she confesses both adultrie and incest (hee being also maryed). Compeired also the said James Robertson confessed he kest hir doun in the barn bot was not able to lye with hir. 2. She affirmed that one night his wyff being absent at a sick woman travailing he come to the bedd to hir and as she affirms was above hir and that it come from him that maid hir with bairne. He being present said that he could not deny bot confessed all that she spak to be true and said that if the bairne come to that time he sould tak with it. She affirmed this about Whitsunday and that she was with quick bairne upon Michaelmas day and told him of it. William Bosuell in Markinche offers himself to become cautione that Janet Fairman sall not flee.

DYSERT, *December* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr John Bellie ane young man being tryed in his grammer was permitted to teach the school of Kinglessie. Reference anent Mr Zacharie M'Callan the hieland boy in St Androis recommended to the brethren.

Compeired David Symeson and David Cristie, Baillies of Dysert; John Wilson, clerk, Commissioners from Dysert, supplicating the Presbytrie (that in respect to Mr William Nairne his infirmitie and weakness) they wold tak some courss for thair releif. The Presbytrie tak the samyne to thair consideration.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . Ruleing elders present for the new erected kirk Harie Weyms, for Burntiland Magnus Aytoun, for Auchtertule James Symson.

William Symson, bailie of Dysert, present, craves ane anser to their petition presented to the Presbytrie.

The Presbytrie continews thair anser to this day fyftein dayes in Dysert where they ar to meitt with Mr William Nairne for that purpose, and appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie and Mr Alexr Moncreif to signify the samyne to him.

Discharges of the moneyes adebted to James Murray and others appoynted to be registrat whereof the tenor follows—Resaved be me David Anderson from Mr Thomas Melvill for the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie, complete of the annuitie fra the Assemblie 1649, to Assemblie 1650, as also complete payment of all papers sent over be me to the said Presbytrie preceeding the daite hereof and thairfoir dis-discharges the Presbytrie heirof as witness my hand at Edr the 23 day of Julii 1650.

Sic Subscribitur,

D. ANDERSON.

Resaved from Mr Thomas Melvill for the kirks of Kinglessie, Portmook, Weyms, Leslie, Ballingrie, Auchterdirran, Burntiland, Skunie and Auchtertule, eighteen punds for thair collections for the heiland boys at forty shillings everie kirk, according to the act of the Generall Assemblie 1648, as witness my hand at Edr Julii 22, 1650.

Sic Subscribitur,

MR JAMES HAMILTON.

A compt of the printed papers sent to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie since the Assemblie 1648 to the Assemblie 1649. *In primis* 15 covenants 1 lb 10 sh. Item 15, acknowledgment 3 lbs. Item 15 ansers to the observations 4 lbs. Item 15 large declarations and informations 1 lb 10 sh. Item 15 short declarations 1 lb. Item 14 explanations 7 sh. Item 15 letters of the causes of a fast 5 sh. Item 15 testamonies aganest tolerance 1 lb 1 sh 6d, Item 15 Acts of Assemblie 10 lbs. Item 3 psalm books 3 lbs. Item 15 declarations and warnings 1 lb 10 sh. Item 15 causes of a fast 5 sh. Item 15 acts concerning resaveing of engagers 7 sh 6d. Resaved be me Georg Richardson, servitor to Mr Andro Kerr, Clerk to the Generall Assemblie, the sowme of threttie thrie shillings from the persons following of thair proportion of the compt above written viz. from Mr Fred Carmichael, Mr Tho Blak Mr Tho Melvill, Mr Georg Ogilvie, Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr Robert Bruce, Mr John Chalmer, Mr George Nairne, Mr Alexr Moncreif and Mr Josua Meldrome as also I grant the resate of the 20 shillings for the annuitie from each of the persons above written for dispatching of the foirsaid papers from the Assemblie 1648 to the Assemblie 1649, as witness my hand at Edr Julii 22, 1650.

Sic Subscribitur,

J. RICHARDSON.

Resaved be Mr James Hamilton, minister at Edr from Mr Thomas Melvill, minister at Kinglessie for himself and in name and behalf of Mr James Symeson, Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr Kenneth Logie, four hundreth punds each of them ane hundreth punds, and for Mr Thos Blak, minister at Leslie ane hundreth merks and that for the leavie of horse by Collonell Strachan in witness whereof I have subscryved thir presents at Edr Julii 16, 1650.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr JAMES HAMILTON.

Resaved from Mr Thos Melvill ane hundreth merks for Mr Thomas Hoggs ane hundreth merks for Mr John Chalmer, and ane hundreth punds for Mr William, minister at Dysert for thair proportion of the voluntar contribution of leaving a regiment of horse according to the agreement of the Generall Assemblie as witness my hand at Edr Julii 22, 1650.

Sic Subscribitur,

Mr JAMES HAMILTON.

This is besydes Mr John Moncreifs hundreth punds and Mr James Wilsons hundreth punds who ar acquyted.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . L. Collonell James Alexander having conferred with sundrie of the brethren, the brethren reported weill of him and declaired themselfs satisfied with him : appoynts him to compeire the nixt day and subscryve the declaration. Mr Harie Wilkie reported that Mr William Nairne was willing to give ane hundreth punds to Mr William Cochran to preache for him for a time in respect of his weakness and inhabilitie. The Baillies of Dysert compeireing, declairng that they wer not able to contribute anything for a fellowhelper to Mr William Nairne in respect of thair great burdens.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the commission of the kirk to ministers for stirring up thair people to ryse for resisting the enemie as also for these who have not paid thair moneyes for outputting of the ministers regiment. L. Collonell Hunter being recommended be the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie for resaving of him to the covenant and communion, and subscryving the declaration being upon the unlawfull engagement the Presbytrie referrs him to the sessioun of Burntiland.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 29.

The whilk day . . . . . L Collonell Alexander remitted from the commission of the kirk, subscryved the declaratioun : remitted to the kirk of Auchtertule to satisfie for his accession to the late sinfull engagement.

Mr William Cochran reported that the parson of Dysert and he had agreed togither that he should preach for him for a tyme. The sessioun of Dysert having represented to the Presbytrie the infirmitie of Mr William Nairne one of thair

ministers be reason of his age and sickness and withall the necessitie of the people in the hour of tentation especiallie desyred that they wold give libertie to Mr William to employ a young man Mr William Cochran for a time (resident in Dysert) to help him in preacheing for a time. The Presbytrie having considered thair desyre, did with advyce and consent of Mr William Nairne condescend to the samyne. All the brethren being enquyred declaired that they had bein active in stirring up thair people for the new leavie in defence of the countrie, except Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Georg Nairne.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 12.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren who have not paid thair proportional parts for outputting of that regiment comitted to Collonell Strachan, ar exhorted to bring it.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts the brethren to enquyre in all thair kirks for Janet Fairman, fugitive for incest, and ordeanes hir bairne to be baptised, the friends finding a sponser as also to desyre other Presbytries to enquyre for hir.

Compeired Janet Mitchell, fornicatrix (as she alledges) with George Ferguson in the parochine of Kinglessie, affirming that he lay with her thryse the first time in hir own masters houss, the second time in hir fathers workhouss about Witsonday the third time at hir fathers workhouss at Hallowmes. He also being present denyed that ever he knew hir bot once, and that was at the watersyde at Hallowmess. The Presbytrie remitts the mater for further tryell. Compeired Thomas Smith in Levin for drunkeness and swearing and refusing to satisfie thairfoir as also for abuseing the elders and slandering Mr Robert Blak of drunkeness twyse where he failed in his probatione. The Presbytrie ordeanes him to confess all befoir the sessioun of Skunie and to mak his publik repentance thairfoir, and if he refuse to be brought back agane to the Presbytrie. Generall Agitant Turner being recommended be the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie anent his accession to the sinfull engagement in Ingland the Presbytrie appoynts him to conferr with the Moderator Mr Fred Carmichaell and Mr Alec Moncreif and they to report anent him. L. Collonell Sinclair recommended be the commissioun of the Generall Assemblie, recommended to the foirsaid brethren to conferr with him and they to report anent him.

Compeired Isobell Aikine, *quinquies lapsa* in fornicatioun with five syndrie men —the first David Moyes, the second James Lightman, the 3 David Young, the 4 Thomas Anderson, the 5 James Kinninmonth : ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress : resaved hir first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 12, 1651.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren of whom Generall Agitant Turner was appoynted to conferr with him reported weill of him and wer satisfied.

James Abercrombie be his letter humblie petitiouned the Presbytrie that he

might be relaxed from his excommunication, and resaved agane into the bosome of the kirk. The brether appoynts some of thair number to conferr with him and report anent him. Georg Macklarian, ane old scholemaster supplicating the Presbytrie for some support is recommended to thair particular sessiouns. Resaved from Mr Georg Ogilvie 58 lbs for the prisoners. Act anent the insolencie of sojours publiklie read to the congregationes.

DYSERT, *March* 26.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from the commissioners of the kirk appoynting to censure such ministers as sall not concurr with the rest for stirring up thair people for the leavie and does not give obedience to publik resolutions also anent these who have not payed for outputting the regiment committed to Collonell Strachan with the causses of a solemn fast and humiliation to be keipt upon the 2 Lords day of April nixt.

The money collected for the prisoners in Ingland appoynted to be delyvered to Thomas White in Kirkcaldie. Mr John Chalmer produced ane ticket of resait from Mr James Hamilton of 50 merks for outputting of the ministers regiment.

Mr Alexander Moncreif being demandit anent his judgement of the present publik resolutions ansered he thought the courss sinfull, and held it forth so to his people in so far as it tended to a compliance with and advancing a malignant partie. Also Mr George Nairne declaired that he had preached nothing aganest the publik resolutions, nor yit prayed for the armie in direct terms. Mr Georg Ogilvie is appoynted to preache at Kingorne the nixt Sabbath, and to conveine the sessioun anent the nomination of a man who may succeed to Mr John Moncreif lait minister there—Mr Thomas Blak to preache there the Sabbath following and to learne of the people thair lyking of and consent to the man then nominat, and to report thair diligence the first meitting after the Synod.

The Presbytrie adjuges all that rests unpaid of the steipend of Kingorne for the year 1650 to apperteine justlie to the Exrs of Umqll John Moncreif.

James Abercrombie agane petitioning the Presbytrie that he may be relaxed from the sentence of excommunicatioun pronounced aganest him and that he may be resaved into the bosom of the kirk agane the Presbytrie appoynts that some brether conferr with him and try his dispositioun as also remitts him to conferr with the elders of his own sessioun and them to report anent him. It is thought meitt that everie brether represent the enormities of the souldiers within thair bounds to the Synod. John Lawmonth a ministers sonne giveing in his supplicatioun to the Presbytrie for relief of his poore estaite the brether promeise to help him and also recommend him to the Synod. Compeired David Bosuell of Balmowto acknowledges that he is convict in his conscience of the unlawfullness of the engagement in Ingland and that it was aganest the word of God: subscryved the declaratioun and was referred to Auchtertule to be resaved.

Collonell Sinclair subscryved the declaratioun and is referred to the minister of Dysert to resave him,

Georg Crystall in Dysert captive with the Turks at Argier his distressed estaite shown to the Presbytrie be his letter. The Presbytrie appoynts the Moderator to speak with C Alexander Herd anent these moneys resting in his hands whilks wer collected for such ane use. Reference anent Janet Mershell who confessing fornicatioun with Georg Ferguson avowing none other to be the father of hir bairne bot he, whilk he altogither denyed bot that he lay once with hir at the watersyde and that was at Hallowmes whilk bairne she hes alreadie brought foorth and inhumanlie hes laid it down at the mans fathers durr in the night and is fugitive, the Presbytrie craves the Synods mind thairanent. The brethren according to the laudable custome being removed severallie for thair tryells wer all approven except Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Georg Nairne in the particulars afoirsaid who in all other things ar approven with the rest.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 9, 1651.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Bruce and Mr Georg Ogilbie promeises to pay thair proportional parts for outputting Strachans regiment. Mr Georg Ogilbie reported from Kingorne that they had made choyce of Mr Josua Meldrome minister at Auchtertule to be thair minister. Mr Thomas Blak also reported from Kingorne that all the proceedings of the sessioun being read anent that mater that some wer aganest the said electioune. The Presbytrie thinks meitt that these who discent may be spoken and dealt with to bring them to ane unanimous call or otherwayes that they give thair reasons of discent to the Presbytrie this day thrie weeks and appoynts Mrs Fred Carmichael and Georg Nairne to speak them betwixt and the said day.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie of Cuper having sent a letter that Mr Harie Pitcairne expectant within the bownds of the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie should repair to the Presbytrie of Cuper at thair nixt meitting that he might be appoynted be them to goe to the kirk of Logie vacand be the death of the laitt minister and preach to them upon a Lords day according to the desyre of the Elderschip of the said kirk to the Presbytrie of Cuper wherein they desyred that according to the act of the Generall Assemblie in such caises they wold procure to them a heiring of the said Mr Harie Pitcairnie the Presbytrie in respect the said Mr Harie was absent ordeaned a letter to be written to him to that effect.

Compeired Helen Miller in Leslie trelapse in fornicatioun: resaved hir last injunctiouns. Such of the Eldershipp of Kingorne as in thair kirk sessioun discented from the electioun of Mr Josua Meldrome to succeed in the ministrie and charge of that congregatioun being appoynted to compeire to give in to the Presbytrie thair reasons of thair not consenting thairto this day being called none compeirit. Anent the petitoun of Kingorne for transporting Mr Josua Meldrome from the kirk of Auchtertule to the kirk of Kingorne the Presbytrie appoynts the paroshiners of

Auchtertule to be acquainted thairwith and that they be present at the Presbytrie the first day of meitting and the discenters of Kingorne also to be present and give in thair reasons of thair discent otherwayes not to be hard heirafter. The Presbytrie understanding by Abercrombie sonne to James Abercrombie laitlie excommunicate for his obstinacie that his father James Abercrombie was by long and sore sickness at the poynt of death and that he desyred nothing so earnestlie as to be resaved within the fellowshipp of Christs kirk befoir he departed this lyff in that caise the Presbytrie appoynted Mrs John Chalmer, Thomas Melville, Georg Ogilbie and Thomas Blak ministers, with the Eldershipp of the congregation of Auchterdirran where he resided to goe and visit him and if the mater wer as it was related to them he being *in articulo mortis* then that upon evident signs of his repentance they should retract the sentence of excommunicatioun.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Mr Georg Idingtone and James Symeson paroshiners of Auchtertule who in name of the rest of the paroshe confessed that they wer sowmonit, whilk sowmons was indorsat, who said they had no reasons in writt for the staying of thair minister with them for the present and craved the delay of eight dayes or of fyftein dayes to give in thair reasons in writt. Mr John Chalmer reported that he, Mr Thomas Melvill, Mr Thomas Blak, ministers ; David Bosuell of Balgreggie, Robert Kilgour in Bowlayes, Robert Kilgour in Pitkenie, and Andro Inglis, elders of the congregation of Auchterdirran (according to the appoyntment of the Presbytrie) went to James Abercrombie and finding him verie sick and weak lyklier as they thought to dye as lyve in respect of his age and weakness, and finding him verie ample in his confession and penitent for his contempt of the admonisions of the kirk, and obstinacie and contempt of the sacrament and blasphemie and upbraiding of the sessioun for the whilk he was excommunicat and acknowledging the equitie of the sentence aganest him for the whilk he humblie craved the ministers pardon in name of the Presbytrie and the elders in name of the congregation, and also promeiseing that if God should grant him health, he should of his own accord befoir the congregation make good what he had confessed (although he should be relapsed) and desyre the people not to follow his evill example and should obey what further the Presbytrie should think expedient, did after prayer to God for him absolve him from the sentence of excommunication, and resave him into the number of Gods people and into the fellowshipp of the ministers and elders. The brethren approved them in so doeing and rests satisfied.

William Maxwell and William Ballingall thair excommunications appoynted to be intimate in all the kirks of the Presbytrie, according to the ordinance of the Synod. Mr James Symeson, Mr Kenneth Logie, Mr Georg Ogilbie, and Mr Harie Wilkie, ar appoynted be the Presbytrie to meitt upon Moonday nixt with Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Georg Nairne, brethren not satisfied with publik resolutions.

DYSERT, *Maii* 8, 1651.

The whilk day . . . . . James Symeson in Auchtertule in his own name, and in name of the paroshiners of Auchtertule gave in some reasons in writt for the not transporting of Mr Josua Meldrome from the Kirk of Auchtertule to Kingorne whilks being read and considered as also the reasons of Kingorne for his said transportation and the said Mr Josua himself hard to the full, the Presbytrie in respect of the necessar absence of syndrie brethren and importance of the mater in itself continewes the samyne to the nixt day, and appoynts Mr Georg Nairne to preache at Kingorne the nixt Sabbath.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 4.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired the Commissioners of Kingorne and Auchtertule, anent the transportation of Mr Josua Meldrome. The Presbytrie in respect of the absence of syndrie brethren appoynts to meitt in Kirkcaldie on Moonday nixt for that effect.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 9, 1651.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the transportation of Mr Josua Meldrome from Auchtertule to Kingorne the Commissioners from both paroshes being present and thair reasons agane being all read and considered and having no more to say, the brethren proceeded to the said transportation, and voyced and concluded the samyne and appoynted Wednesday the 26 of this instant for resaveing the said Mr Josua minister at the Kirk of Kingorne, and appoynted Mr George Ogilvie, Moderator, to preach at Kingorne the said day. Mr Robert Bruce is appoynted to preache at Kingorne the nixt Sabbath and intimate the samyne and to warn any that hes anything to object aganest the said transportation to compeire befoir the Presbytrie and declaire the samyne. Anent the collecting of the frie loan or voluntar contribution, appoynted be the Parliament it is thought meitt that the ministers and one or two with them goe alongs thair paroshes and have a book for registrating the names of the contributors and what they contribute for the which they ar to be anserable. These brether who wer appoynted to conferr with Mr Alex Moncreif and Mr Georg Nairne having mett and conferred with them anent thair not satisfaction with the publik resolutions reported that they wer not satisfied.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Blak and Mr Josua Meldrome reported thair diligence in thair correspondence with the Presbytries of Cuper and Dunfermeline. All persons being thrie severall times called upon at the kirk durr who had anything to object aganest the transportatioun of Mr Josua Meldrome from the kirk of Auchtertule to the kirk of Kingorne, none compeired. Ane act resaved from the committee of estaits at Cuper for leaving of men to attend the coast of Fyff appoynted to be intimate the nixt Sabbath. Anent the unsatisfied brethren with common resolutiouns the brethren thinks meitt that there be yit another meitting for conference with them.

KINGORNE, *Junii* 26.

The whilk day the brether being conveined in the kirk of Kingorne viz, Mr Georg Ogilbie, Moderator, who preached upon the said day and had for text Luke 12, 42 and all the rest of the brethren none absent Mr Josua Meldrome was resaved minister at the said kirk according to the accustomed order in such caises.

All the brethren reported that they had keipt the fast and read the reasons thairof except Mrs Alexander Moncrief and Georg Nairne who keipt the fast bot read not the reasons thairof as not being satisfied with syndrie things therein as viz, not praying for the armie and the success thairof. The brethren appoynts a conference with them yit on Thursday nixt for that effect and nominates Mrs Georg Ogilbie, Moderator, Fred Carmichaell, Thomas Blak, Josua Meldrome, James Wilsone, ministers and the Lairds of Bogie and Balwharg ruleing elders to meitt with them for that effect.

Mrs Fred Carmichael, Thomas Melville, and Thomas Blak, ministers and the Laird of Balwharg ruleing elder chosen commissioners for the Assemblie to meitt at St Androis the 3 Wednesday of Julii nixt to come.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brethren reported that they had delyvered thair frie lawfull contributiouns for the distressed ministers. Anent a conference with the scrupulouse brethren viz, Mrs Alexander Moncreif, Georg Nairne, and James Wilsone, finds them not yit resolved and appoynts yit another meitting with them in Dysert on Monday nixt at 10 hours.

Julii 9.

The whilk day . . . . . The brethren who wer appoynted to meitt at Dysert on Monday last to conferr with the scrupline brether reported that they wer not satisfied. The brether reported that they had intimate the excommunicatioun of William Dundas, brother to the Laird of Duddingston, Archbald Strachan, L Gen Major Andro Abernethy, and Swinton Younger, of that Ilk. Janet Kilgour in the paroshe of Leslie while she was making hir repentance for the sinn of fornicatioun committed with David Williamson being found to be with bairne to another man the Presbytrie ordeanes hir to sitt nine severall Sabbaths in the place of publik repentance.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 23.

The whilk day the brethren being mett after a long intermition by reason of the troubles of the countrie, absents Mrs Pat Weyms, Robert Bruce, James Nairne, James Wilson. Chuseing of the Moderator is continewed. Mr Harie Rymour present from St Androis for correspondence declaired that the brethren thought meitt that thair should be a solemn humiliation keipt upon Sunday come eight dayes and to have a sermone of preparatioun befoir.

The brether approves the overture as also produced a paper wherein the brether of that Presbytrie approved the last Generall Assemblie. 1. In respect of the

lawfulness of the constitution. 2. That any other meitting condemning the Assemblie to be unlawfull. 3. That whosoever sall tak upon them to act anything be virtue of any meitting since the said Assemblie to be void and unlawfull and of no effect. 4. That they will not concurr in anything of that kind heirafter whilk paper the brethren of this Presbytrie approved except Mr Kenneth Logie who is scrupulous anent the first poynt.

Mr Alexander Moncreif adhers to his former protestatioun in the contrair. The brethren thinks meitt that thair be some brether viz, Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr Thomas Blak appoynted to deall with the Presbytrie of Cuper, Mr John Chalmer for Dunfermeline to deall with the brether thair that thair may be some brether chosen of all the Presbytries to concurr and deall in a friendlie manner for settling a peace if it be possible. Mrs Frederik Carmichael and Thomas Melvill ar appoynted to meitt with the rest of the Presbytries for that effect.

DYSERT, *November* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . The brether reported that they had keipt the fast. Compeired Helen Craig in the parochine of Burntiland trelapse in fornicatioun, to resave hir first injunctions, bot in respect of hir ignorance and hardness of heart the Presbytrie appoynted the minister to deall with hir befoir she be resaved.

DYSERT, *November* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . John Wylie, ruleing elder for Auchtertule, craved help for thair kirk. Mr Patrik Weyms is appoynted to preache there the nixt Sabbath, and Mr Kenneth Logie the Sabbath following.

Question anent women with bairne to souldiers and some delyvered how to deall with them : anser—to baptise thair bairns upon oacasion as effeirs. Anent Janet Lillie with bairne to a souldier it not being known that hir husband is dead, she is ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress. Anent the paper from St Androis some brethren desyreing the samyne to be read who had not been present when it was read, appoynts the Clerk to give any brether that requyres it the inspection of the copie thairof, bot not to be farther read judiciallie. Mrs Alexander Moncrief, Georg Nairne and James Wilson discents from the overtures from St Androis.

Anent the meitting of some brether from the severall Presbytries of the shyre the result whereof was as follows :—Cuper, November 13. The whilk day the brether conveined by commission from the severall Presbytries of the province thinks fit that these following overtures be presented to thair severall Presbytries. 1. That ilk Presbytrie within the province send one of their number clothed with commission to these brether conveined or to be conveined at Edr, or when or where they salbe for the time taking upon them the name of the commission of the Generall Assemblie 1650 desyreing them in thair name to desist from suting or acting under that notion, and declairing that no acting of thairs can be obligatorie to any within our bounds aither minister or people. 2. That the commission of the last Generall Assemblie holden at Edr and Dundie as also the severall Presbytries within thair bounds be desyred to forbear any acting relating to the present differences

3. that the Presbytries may tak some solid courss for uniting themselfs in judgement for the preservation of the doctrin and government of this kirk. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Josua Meldrome to repair to Edr to concurr with other brethren there for making up the breach in the kirk. Appoynts Mrs Fred Carmichael and Mr Thomas Blak to meitt with the brethren of St Androis presentlie for dealing anent the captive ministers.

DYSERT, *December* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . A protestation was given in this day subscryved be Mr Alexr Moncreif, Georg Nairne and James Wilson, whilk being read was referred to the nixt day. Mr Josua Meldrome reported that he went over the water as he was appoynted, bot went not to the meitting of the brether there, as thought not expedient.

December 17, 1651.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired James Abercrombie who haveing satisfied according to the orders of the kirk of his own accord, declaired his sense of his bygone evill wayes and his deip sorrow for the samyne, and promeises by the grace of God to be ane new man, and to walk more circumspectlie than he hath done : the brether rests satisfied with the samyne.

DYSERT, *December* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Thomas Melvill and Mr John Chalmer ar appoynted to preache at Auchtertule the nixt tuo Sabbaths and to concurr and desyre the sessioun to nominate a man who may be minister to them.

Mr Patrik Weyms declaired the report of his correspondence with Cuper and St Androis.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the difference betwixt John Bosuell of Burntiland and Mr Georg Nairne his minister anent a controverted part of the gleib, the Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Josua Meldrome and Georg Ogilbie to goe to Burntiland at the earnest desyre of the said John Bosuell and tak paines to settle them and David Seatone ruleing elder to be with them. Mr John Chalmer having preached at Auchtertule as he was appoynted, reported that the parochiners and sessioun had nominate and maid choyce of Mr Andro Walker to be thair minister according to ane act of their sessioun as also ane letter from the heretors both exhibit and read in the Presbytrie did declaire. The Presbytrie approves of thair choyse and appoynts Mr Josua Meldrome to preache at Auchtertule the nixt Sabbath, and to intimate the samyne publiklie to the whole paroshiners.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 28.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Walker is appoynted to exercise the nixt day the first half hour in opening up the text and the second half hour in raising nots and doctrines thairon for accelerating of his tryells becauss he that should exercise cannot be present the nixt day text Acts 21, 17.

Compeired Mr Thomas Murray, Advocate in name and behalf of My L Melville, Heretor of the lands underwritten and his curators for thair interest befoir the Presbytrie and produced ane decreit of the Commissioners for Plantatioun of kirks and valuatioun of lands of the daite the 14 day of Februarii 1648—berand the lands of Auchmuir be disjoined from the paroshe of Portmook and united to the paroshe kirk of Kinglessie for the reasons and causes therein conteined and conform to the decreit craved that the minister of Kinglessie may be appoynted to tak the charge of the inhabitants of the said lands in all time comeing and the minister of Portmook appoynted to give them ane testimonial for that effect whilk decreit and desyre the Presbytrie haveing taken to thair consideratioun after mature deliberatioun thairanent have ordeaned and to be thair presents ordeanes Mr Thomas Melville present minister at Kinglessie and his successors to tak charge of the inhabitants of the said lands in all time comeing as being now his proper paroshiners and the said Mr Georg Ogilbie minister at Portmook to give them ane testimonial for that effect and that both the saids ministers of Kinglessie and Portmook mak intimatioun heirof out of thair severall pulpetts.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 24.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the prisoners of Dundie who taking thair pitifull estait to thair serious consideratioun doe think it meitt that everie brother of the Presbytrie declaire the samyne to thair people the nixt Sabbath that they be readie to contribute thair best for thair relief the Sabbath thairafter.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Andro Walker to handel the Cowmonhead *De Pedobaptismo* and to give in Theses thereupon as ane other part of his tryells for the kirk of Auchtertule.

DYSERT, *Februarii* 25.

The whilk day . . . . . C Alexander Bonar compeiring regratted the pitifull estait of our prisoners in Ingland craveing support for them: the brethren promeises diligence for thair releif.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 10.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the moneyes collected for the prisoners at Dundie the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Patrik Weyms to resave the samyne and to delyver it in Dundie to them and Robert Orrok, ruleing elder to accompanie him. The Presbytrie appoynts the brethren to have thair moneyes that ar collected for the prisoners in Ingland in reddiness aganest this day fyftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 15.

The whilk day the brethren being all mett except Mr Fred Carmichael and Mr Alexander Moncreif upon occasioun of a letter from St Androis craveing a meitting of some brether from the rest of the Presbytries to meitt with them for weightie

causes to be communicate to them. The Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Kenneth Logie, Georg Ogilbie, Thomas Blak, to repair thither for that effect.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 24.

The whilk day Mr Andro Walker delyvered his Cowmonhead in Latin *De Pedobaptismo* and had for text Acts 2. 30. Doctrine censured and allowed and approven in his Exegeses as a part of his tryells as also susteined disputatiouns upon his Theses and is to sustein further disputatiouns thairupon. Mr Patrik Weyms reported that he went to Dundie as he was appoynted and delyvered the money resaved be him to the prisoners and exhibits tickets of resait and discharges thereupon subscryvit with thair hands.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 31.

The whilk day the brethren being all conveined except Mrs Harie Wilkie and Robert Bruce, Mr Andro Walker susteined further disputations upon his Theses and was approven upon that poynt of his tryells as also gave proof of his knowledge in the tongues in the Hebrew, the first section of 119 psalm, and in his Greik *ad apperturam libri* the Epistle of Jude and Hebrews 10, wherein he gave the brethren satisfaction and was approven in these poynts of his tryells and is appoynted to anser to his questions the first day after the Synod.

Mr Kenneth Logie is appoynted to preache at Auchtertule the nixt Sabbath and Mr Andro Walker the Sabbath following. The brethren severallie removed for thair tryells befoir the Synod wer all approven in thair callings and conversations except Mrs Alexander Moncreif, Georg Nairne, and James Wilsone, whom the rest of the brethren did not approve in that they condemned the publik resolutions of the kirk and last Generall Assemblies holden at St Androis and Dundie and thair protesting aganest it so also they did not approve the rest in adhereing to the publik resolutions, and laitt Generall Assemblie holden in Anno 1651, bot discented and adhered to thair protestations aganest both.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Janet Lillie in Kingorne, adultress with James Matheson, to resave hir first injunctiouns, bot in respect she is not humbled continewed to another day. The Presbytrie appoynts the sessioun of Portmook to give thair testimonial to the people of Auchmuir being orderlie disjoyned from that parochine and annexed to the paroshe of Kinglessie—the minister of Kinglessie being not content to resave them without a testimonial according to the act of the Generall Assemblie. Mr William Cochran compleining upon Mr James Wilson for discharging him from preaching in Dysert sicklyke Georg Tough in name of the counsell of Dysert for that effect, the Presbytrie thinks meitt that some brether viz Mrs Harie Wilkie, Kenneth Logie, and Patrik Weyms, ministers and John Williamson, ruleing elder, meitt at Dysert and speak the parties apart and deall with them for agreement. Mr Andro Walker was tryed in his questiones and is to

sustein further tryells the nixt day relating to the ministrie of Auchtertule, and is appoynted to have his popular sermon the nixt day for that effect text Galat 6 the words, God forbid that I should rejoyce etc, and to lecture from the beginning the first half hour and then to preache upon these words the rest of the time.

DYSERT, *April* 21.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Andro Walker susteined further tryells in his questions. The brethren ar satisfied with this and all former parts of his tryells relating to the kirk of Auchtertule. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Patrik Weyms to preache at Auchtertule the nixt Sabbath, and to intimate that the brether ar satisfied with his tryells and have appoynted Wednesday the 28 of this instant for his admission, and that if any present have anything to object aganest his admission they compeire upon Tysday the 27 thairof befoir the Presbytrie and declaire the samyne. The brether appoynted to speak with the people of Dysert and Mr James Wilsone, and Mr William Cochran reported that they had dealt with them bot could doe little and to no effect. Georg Tough with the Baillies in name of the Town Counsell and paroshe of Dysert compeireing produced ane supplicatione subscryved be the Baillies, Counsell, and a great many of the Burgesses (onlie David Simpson of Monturpie compeireing discented from the samyne) to the effect foirsaid which is yet extant. The Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Fred Carmichael, Thomas Blak, Georg Ogilbie, Josua Meldrome, Harie Wilkie to meitt at Dysert Tysday nixt, and to deall yit with all parties if possible they can yit settle them.

DYSERT, *April* 27.

The whilk day the brethren being met for discipline Mr Patrik Weyms reported that he went to Auchtertule and preached as he was appoynted and maid intimatione of the dyet of Mr Andro Walker his admission minister to the said kirk and requyred any persons who had anything to object aganest the said admission to compeire heir this day and declaire the samyne, who being thryse called on at the kirk door none compeired and the said admission appoynted to be exped the morrow. The said day also Mr Josua Meldrome and the rest who wer to speak at Dysert reported that they had spoken with them who wer willing to submit themselfs to the Presbytrie, protesting meantime that the kirk of Dysert may be supplied in preaching by ane honest young man and no burden to lye upon the town. The said day Mr James Wilson read some words from a paper which he had excerpt as he said out of Mr William Cochrans sermons at which he professed he stumbled a little, bot did not delyver the paper to the Presbytrie. The people of Dysert further desyred as they reported that Mr James Wilsone might supplie thair kirk in preaching till they be provydit of ane other and withall that nothing should be done to Mr William Cochran tending to his prejudice. The Presbytrie continew further till the morn eight dayes at Dysert at which time they resolve to strive to give them all contentment. A letter resaved from the prisoners in Ingland shewing thair hard estaite.

AUCHTERTULE, *April* 28.

The whilk day the Presbytrie being mett the sermone being delyvered be Mr Harie Wilkie viz, Zacharie 11, 7 they proceeded and admitted Mr Andro Walker, minister of the said kirk of Auchtertule according to the order appoynted be the Generall Assemblie.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the mater of Dysert for settleing that business nominats Mrs Josua Meldrome, Thomas Blak, and Kenneth Logie to speak all parties betwixt this day and fyftein dayes. The Presbytrie appoynts the ministers of Kirkcaldie to intimate a collectioun for the prisoners in Ingland and to collect the same. Appoynts Mrs Kenneth Logie, Georg Nairne, with William Baxter, wright and Andro Allison, mason, to visit the manse of Kingorne and to report thair diligence. Compeired Janet Agnes in Abbotshall trelapse in fornicatioun: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress.

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 19.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynted C Alexander his ticket of resaipt of the moneys collected for the prisoners in Ingland to be produced the nixt day.

Appoynts these who ar debtfull to the clerk of the Synod to carrie thair moneys with them to the Synod and delyver it to him thair.

DYSERT, *Junii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie allows and approves Mr David Martin and Mr William Bells compt registrat in the Presbytrie book anent the kirk manss of Auchtertule. Anent ane testimonial to the people of Auchmuir the Presbytrie having ordeaned the minister and sessioun of Portmook to give them a testimonial having nothing scandelous objected aganest the same and thairafter having ordeaned agane to give testificate ar also to sheu what they could sheu in poynt of scandel, the minister of Portmook being present and objecting no such thing in the contrair aganest any of the said people alreadie annexed thairfoir the Presbytrie ordeanes the minister of Kinglessie to resave them as paroshiners in the time to come and they to resave the privileges of Gods people there and to admit the elder nominate whose admissioun was delayed for want of the said testimonial. Mr Andro Walker reported that he and Mr Josua Meldrome had agreed togither anent the kirk manss of Auchtertule and that he had given him 300 hundred and threttie thrie merks in contentatioune whilk the said Mr Josua acknowledged to be true. The brethren and ruleing elders who wer appoynted for settleing the mater of Dysert reported thair diligence as follows:—1. That all these papers given in be Mr James Wilsone be taken up on aither hand. 2. That Mr William Cochran be satisfied to this day from his entrie be Mr William Nairne at the sight of any person whom the Presbytrie may appoynt 3. That Mr James Wilson be told that the Presbytrie took it not weill in discharging of Mr William to preach without

acquainting them. 4. That Mr James obliged himself Presbyterallie as he promeised himself befoir to preach tuyse on the Sabbath till they be provyded and that with all diligence they goe about this and think upon a competence with that effect. 5. It is thought good that Mr William preache once or tuyse and that he have a sufficient testimonial from the Presbytrie and sessioun of Dysert when he requyres it. 6. That both of them beware to speak undescrietlie one of another in time comeing and that the schole of Dysert be visited. 7. Lastlie that the ministers and sessioun of Dysert send for Mr Georg Dishintone that he may preach on the Sabbath day and that with all diligence it being with thair desyre.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 10, 1652.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts Mrs James Wilson and Kenneth Logie to speak to Alexander Herd that these moneyes that ar in his hands whilk wer collectit for the releif of the captives at Argier may be forecoming and in readiness. Mr William Cochran craveing ane testimonial the Presbytrie grants the samyne to him and to get the testimonial from the sessioun of Dysert.

DYSERT, *Junii* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Harie Wilkie to repair to Markinche and to deall with the heretors thair with the payment of a part of the gleib and the Laird of Fingask ruleing elder with him—alegit be Mr David Bennett to be due to him.

The Presbytrie requests the brether to gather some supplie for L Brown and L Muir and bring it with them the nixt day that it may be delyvered to them at Kennoquhie. The Presbytrie gives commission to the ministers of Kirkcaldie to try in thair sessioun anent James Adamson husband to Cristian Kyd his turning Turk as is affirmed.

Compeired Isobell Aiken in Dysert *quinques lapsa* in fornication: resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 7.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Harie Wilkie reported from the heretors of Markinche that whatsomever that Mr David Bennett could doe by law anent that part of the gleib alledgit to pertein to him they wold most willinglie condescend to. Refers the mater of Cristian Kidds mariage to the Generall Assemblie, it being clearlie proven befoir the sessioun of Kirkcaldie that hir husband James Adamson is turned Turk seven years since, it being fourtein since he departed from hir. The whilk day anent the chuseing of Commissioners for the Generall Assemblie, Mr Harie Wilkie, Mr Josua Meldrome, Mr John Chalmer, ministers; and Mr James Schoner, of Caskybarian wer chosen Commissioners. Mrs Georg Nairne and Mr James Wilson refused to voyce in the election bot adhered to thair former protestation also the Laird of Fingask refused.

DYSERT, *Julii* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . The elders being present from Kennoquhie anent the

provision of thair kirk being now vacand be the decease of Mr Thomas Hogg, the Presbytrie nominates for them Mr Thomas Fairfull, Mr Thomas Dishingtone, and Mr Robert Mercer to be hard *per vices*.

The Presbytrie appoynts to give Mr William Cochran thair testimoniall, all whilk being presentlie drawn up and read judiciallie (no man objecting anything aganest it) it was judiciallie subscryved.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Act and representation of the pitifull estaite of Glasgow by burning resaved and distribute among the brethren for charitie. A letter resaved from the Presbytrie of Cuper desyreing to send Mr William Cochran to them that they may appoynt him to preach at the kirk of Creigh in reference to a call. The Presbytrie appoynts him to go thither. Resaved a recommendation in favours of Alexr Hardie and John Paterson, inhabitants in Burrowstones, prisoners with the Turks : appoynted to be intimate for thair releif.

Compeired Elisabeth Paxton in Auchtertule, trelapse in fornication : ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress : resaved hir first injunctions. Report from the Generall Assemblie anent Peter Watsons mariage with Cristian Kidd that she behove to sowmon hir first husband at the Peir and shoir of Leyth (he being out of the countrie) upon fourtie dayes and procure divorce of him

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 18, 1652.

The whilk day . . . . . Act anent the burning of Glasgow to be thought anent the nixt day. Mr John Ramsay from Cuper presented a letter from the Presbytrie bearing that nothwithstanding our testimonial for Mr William Cochran they wer informed of some scandelous doctrine preached in Dysert be the said Mr William for which he was loosed from Dysert. The Presbytrie appoynts ane letter to be written and sent to them for satisfaction in that poynt. The Presbytrie writts tuo letters, one to the Presbytrie of Jedburgh desyreing to send Mr Robert Mercer heir that he may be appoynted to preach at Kennoquhie, the other to the said Mr Robert that he may come heir to that effect.

September 1.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter of thanks resaved from the prisoners of Tynmouth in Ingland granting the resaipt of these moneyes whilk wer sent to them be C Alexander Bonar. Mr Robert Mercer present produced sufficient testimonials from the Presbytries of St Androis, Jedburgh, and Perth, wherewith the Presbytrie was pleased and they appoynted him to preach at Kennoquhie the nixt Sabbath and Mr William Fairfull the Sabbath thairafter. Margart Howie spouse to Mr Andro Lawmouth present desyres that she may have these moneyes delyvered be hir husband to the relict of Mr William Watson for the manss of Markinche whilk was thrie hundreth merks refunded to hir.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Patrik Weyms, Georg Nairne, Georg Ogilbie,

Andro Walker, and Mr Josua Meldrome to meitt at Kirkcaldie upon Moonday nixt with hir and Mr Fred Carmichaell and to deall to settle them.

The Presbytrie desyres thair commissioners who ar to meitt at Cuper to advyse with them what order to tak anent the estait of Glasgow. The Acts of the Generall Assemblie and Overtures being read the Presbytrie desyres the discenting brethren to think seriouslie upon some overtures of peace and to be particularlie interogate the nixt day whether they doe accept of the same.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 22.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Josua Meldrome reported that Mr Fred Carmichael and Mr Andro Lawmonths wyff wer upon ane agreement anent the manss of Markinche bot not finallie. The overture of the Generall Assemblie for union appoynted to be presented to the discenting brethren was accordinglie done and refused be them viz, Mrs Alexander Moncreif, Georg Nairne and James Wilsone, besydes whilk Mr Alexander desyred that it might be marked that he adhered to his former protestatioune also Fingask. Mr Kenneth Logie being interrogate touching the overture declaired that he was not clear becauss he had not sein it. Collonel Bremner and Robert Sibald commissioners from Kennoquhie declaired that they had hard the thrie young men appoynted to preach to them and desyred not to heir any more in reference to the plantatione of that kirk and desyred that the tuo nixt Sabbaths thair kirk might be supplyed be actual ministers.

The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Patrik Weyms to preache the nixt Sabbath and Mr James Symeson the Sabbath thairafter.

Mr Fred Carmichael representing the hard condition of the people of Dubbosyd being so far distant from Markinche and so neir to Skunie and not having that success as was expected of thair disjunctioune it was at once resolved be the Presbytrie by reason of the not sitting of the judicatorie now the Presbytrie thought expedient to crave the advyse of the Synod concerning them.

James Robertson in Newbigging presented ane supplicatioun for a seatt in Burntiland kirk. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr Josua Meldrome and Mr Andro Walker to speak the minister and sessioun anent the settling of the samyne. The brethren removed for thair tryells ar all approved except the discenting brethren not approven being of thair different judgement anent the tuo preceeding Assemblies. Mrs Georg Nairne and James Wilsone wer disallowed for keiping fasts of thair own and contemning fasts of the Generall Assemblie.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie.

DYSERT, *Octobr* 6, 1652.

The whilk day . . . . . A letter resaved from Kennoquhie anent the settling of that kirk with a minister from C Brymer whilk letter reported that all except one James Wilsone in Kings Mill had voyced for Mr Robert Mercer, as also that the Lairds of Balfour and Burntown, being in the kirk and the Laird of Durie wold not come and consent. Mr Kenneth Logie is appoynted to preache at Kennoquhie the nixt Sabbath, and to intimate the act of Mr Robert Mercers call and Mr Josua

Meldrome to preache there the Sabbath following, and to intimate the act anent the burning of Glasgow.

KIRKCALDIE, *October* 20.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Kenneth Logie reported that he had preached at Kennoquhie and did intimate the act anent Mr Robert Mercers call. All persons called upon at the kirk door thryse that had anything to object aganest the call to compeire and declaire the samyne : none compeired.

Appoynts to advertyse Mr Alexr Moncreif and his sessioun anent the annexing of Dubbosyd to the kirk of Skunie to be present the nixt day, and Mrs George Nairne and Georg Ogilbie to repair thither for that effect.

Janet Lillie in Kingorne being thryse sowmonit publiklie to mak hir repentance for a bairne brought be hir in adulterie not giving obedience is declaired contumax and ordeans the minister to proceed aganest hir to excommunication. The mater anent the burning of Glasgow being intimate as is reported be the brethren is begun to be exped.

DYSERT, *November* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Robert Mercer compeireing, does accept the call to Kennoquhie who is admitted to his tryells viz his first tryell the Cowmonhead *De Membris Ecclesiae* who declaired that he had no hand at the protestatione nor does approve it.

Appoynts the brether to bring in thair collections for Glasgow this day fyftein dayes. The Presbytrie haveing granted thair testimonial to Mr Robert Hunter appoynts Mrs Harie Wilkie and James Wilsone to goe to Mr Alexr Moncreif that he may give him his testimonial from the sessioun of Skunie.

KIRKCALDIE, *November* 16.

The whilk day . . . . Mr Josua Meldrome be pluralitie of voyces was chosen Moderator till the nixt Assemblie. Appoynts Mr Harie Wilkie to speak the heretors of Skunie anent the annexing of Dubbowsyde. Appoynts ane visitatione of the kirk of Burntiland this day fyftein dayes anent James Robertsons seatt and to be onlie for that purpose.

BURNTILAND, *November* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . The edict was returned indorsat with the names of the elders and deacons called. Anent the seatts the Presbytrie proposed to the sessioun of Burntiland tuo overtures viz 1 that a pew should be built round about the pulpett of tuo foot and ane half breadth for the Laird of Orrok and James Robertson of Newbigging, or 2 that a pew should be built in the bodie of the kirk and appoynts the Moderator and Mr James Wilsone ministers, and John Dewar and James Andersone in Kirkcaldie ruleing elders to meitt with the towne counsell of Burntiland anent the seats and to deall with them to accept of one of the overtures proposed be the Presbytrie to the sessioun or to find out some other themselfs which will satisfie all parties anent thair accomodatione with seats in the kirk.

DYSERT, *December* 1.

The whilk day . . . . Mr Robert Mercer handled the Cowmonhead *De Membris Ecclesiae* who gave satisfactioun to the brethren therein: appoynts his disputatiouns to be this day fyftein dayes and to have his exercise in additioun this day twentie dayes so that the kirk may be planted in this difficil time.

Referrs the annexing of Dubbowsyde to the Synod. Compeired Janet Angus trelapse in fornicatione: resaved hir last injunctiouns.

KIRKCALDIE, *December* 15.

The whilk day Mr Andro Walker was appoynted to preache at Kennoquhie the nixt Sabbath.

Resaved from Geo Gairdens in Burntiland collector of the moneys collected for the supplie of the burning of Glasgow a discharge for Kirkcaldie of the resaite of 147 lbs; Item from him of resaipt from Auchterdirran 58 lbs 15 sh; Item from Markinch of 80 lbs; Item from Auchtertule 52 lbs 4 sh; Item from Weyms of 127 lbs 13 sh; Item from Leslie of 52 lbs 15 sh. Paul Buk a Dane recommended be the Synod for support recommended be the brethren to thair particular kirks also a blind boy in St Androis one Kennedit to get 40 sh from each kirk 40 sh resaved from Weyms for him. Mr Robert Mercer susteined disputatiouns upon his Theses and was approven upon this part of his tryells. Mr James Symeson, Mr John Cant and Mr James Brown, thrie young men being leited for the Bursers place in the new College of St Androis, Mr James Brown be pluralitie of voyces carried it.

DYSERT, *December* 22.

The whilk day Mr Robert Mercer exercised and added each one for the space of half ane hour as he was appoynted and was approven on this poynt of his tryell. Appoynts his tryell in Hebrew psalm 51, his Greik *ad aperturam libri.* His questiouns and popular sermon this day fyftein dayes. Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Robert Hunter thair papers wer read in the Presbytrie and the brether who wer appoynted to meitt at Dysert for that order having done nothing the Presbytrie appoynts them to give thair papers to others and to have thair ansers readie aganest this day fyftein dayes with witnesses to prove what is denyed. 40 sh given be Kennoquhie for the blind boy in St Androis; Item for Glasgow 60 lbs.

KIRKCALDIE, *Januarii* 5.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the stipend of Kennoquhie the Presbytries judgment is it belongs to the relict of Umqll Mr Thomas Hogg. Major Melville recommended be the Assemblie for charitie to be remembred the nixt day also the captives of Burrowstoness. Appoynts to speak to C Herd to get from him the annelrent of these moneys adebted be him for support of Mr John Cant. Sr James Melville ruleing elder for Burntiland for the time. Compeired David Seaton and Thomas Gourlay commissioners from Burntiland who declaired that the towne consellors of Burntiland could not condescend to any of the tuo overtures proponed

to them be the Presbytrie: the minister and ruleing elder from the sessioun declaired that it was so. The Presbytrie desyres the sessioun of Burntiland to give in thair anser in writt. The Laird of Orrok and James Robertson of Newbigging compeired compleaning upon some wrongs susteined be them in the kirk of Burntiland anent thair seatts. The Presbytrie requests them to be patient till things can be gotten better composed.

DYSERT, *Januarii* 23.

The whilk day Mr Robert Mercer delyvered his popular sermon and was approven on this poynt as on all the former poynts of his tryells: appoynts his admission to be upon Thursday come fyftein dayes and Mr Georg Ogilbie to intimate the edict for his admission the nixt Sabbath and Mr Josua Meldrome, Moderator, to preach at the said admission.

KENNOQUHIE, *Januarii* 27.

The whilk day the brethren mett at Kennoquhie, viz Mr Josua Meldrome, Moderator, who preached the said day text Ezra 7. 10. Mrs Fred Carmichael, Harie Wilkie, Andro Waker, Georg Ogilbie, Thomas Blak, who resaved Mr Robert Mercer minister of the said kirk according to the order proscryved be the Generall Assemblie. Anent the mater of Skunie in respect of the small number continewed the samyne to the nixt day peremptorlie and the Presbytrie to sit still till that mater be closed and no other mater to be handled till it be endit.

DYSERT, *Februari* 18, 1653.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Murray to give hir oath anent hir bairnes father whom she affirms to be one Thomas Nesmith one of Lawers regiment who had a brother called James Nesmith who professed hirself readie to give hir oath of the truth thereof. The mater continewed till further tryell and sowmonit *apud acta* to compeire befoir the sessioun of Markinche to that effect.

Compeired Mr Henrie Pitcairne from the Presbytrie of Cuper for correspondence, who proponed these thrie queries for advyse viz 1, What courss can be taine anent these ministers whose stipends ar paid out of sequestered lands: anser: they can give no advyse thairin, it being meerlie civil. 2 Querie, what courss sallbe taken anent the planting of the kirk of Cuper with a minister: anser: our humble advyse is that the committee appoynted be the last Synod be called, and that some of thair number be sent to the sessioun of Cuper and exhort them to mak conscience of the planting of the samyne. 3 Querie, what courss sallbe taken for the planting of the Kirk of Creigh which hath bein desolate for a long time and now many of that sessioun have nominate a man which we fear will occasion great debate and retard the planting thairof: anser: the acts of Generall Assemblie ar so cleir as it is needless for us to speak in it.

The Presbytrie advyses the sessioun of Kingorne to persew Janet Lillies cautioner for hir satisfactione for hir adultrie. The debate betwixt Mr Alexander

Moncreif and Mr Robert Hunter being to be cognosced in, both parties wer removed after that they had subscryved thair papers. Anent the reasons of the first exceptione why a testimonial was refused to Mr Robert Hunter the Presbytrie finds no reason to refuse the samyne, haveing found no particular instance to mak it out. As to the 2 exception Mr Alexander being called and desyred to prove Mr Robert his silence anent the backslidings of the familie of Durie, and engagement aganest Ingland *in anno* 1648 did referr all to the paper aganest which the Presbytrie finds nothing proven, and thairfoir a testimonial not to be refused, seeing in the meantime he was admitted to the communion and employed to preache at the said kirk. The rest continewed to the morn, seeing all cannot be done this night (the day being spent). Appoynts to meitt at Kirkcaldie the morn be eight hours for putting ane end to the business. Resaved from Dysert ane supplicatione with ane act of sessioun presented by William Simpson, Baillie, craveing Mr James Wilson to succeed to the parson of Dysert and parsonage thairof: anser continewed.

KIRKCALDIE, *Februarii* 19.

The whilk day the brether being convened for putting an end to the foirsaid business betwixt Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Robert Hunter proceeded as follows:—As to the 3 exception the Presbytrie finds thair is nothing proven in this exceptioun to hinder a testimonial albeit they think that Mr Robert Hunter did not weill in searching the Presbytrie book. As to the 4 exceptioun the Presbytrie finds nothing in it to hinder a testimonial although they think that Mr Robert hes failed something in not delating that mater of fornicatioun of Durie to the ministers of Dundie. As concerning the fift exceptioun anent the mocking of pietie the Presbytrie finds it not proven yea Mr Alexander being asked whither or not he could give any other instance besydes that whilk he alledgit for the proof of it and whither or not he had found or hard any such lyke thing befoir: ansered negative and thairfoir cannot hinder a testimonial. As to the 6 exception it not being proven declair that it cannot hinder a testimonial to be given besyde they find no weight in it. As to the 7 and last exception it not being proven they find nothing in it to hinder a testimonial to be given to the young man. Both parties being asked if they had anything further to say ansered negative. The Presbytrie resolve for to judge of the complex reserving a new paper given in presentlie be the said Mr Alexander aganest the said Mr Robert whilk paper so far as it relates to the process is judged alreadie that in so far as it relates to Mr Alexr his person to be judged. The questioun being stated whither or not thair was such weight in the papers hard and considered to give ground to refuse a testimonial the Presbytrie having gravlie considered the questioun finds that Mr Robert was to be admonished of severall negligencies and the same to be remembred in his testimonial bot nothing of that weight as to hinder a testimonial. The Presbytrie having considered the papers given in be the said Mr Alexander to be verie long and tedious judged it not necessarie that they should be insert in thair register bot to be keipt be the clerk for after use if neid be.

Mr Robert Hunter is appoynted being put to it be the said Mr Alexander to

prove the last paper given in be the said Mr Alexander and gives him to advyse aganest the nixt whilk is Wednesday come eight dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Margaret Murray: ordeaned to goe to the west countrie and search for hir bairnes father. Mr Robert Hunter taks upon him to prove be witnesses that whilk Mr Alexander Moncreif puts him to viz, that he had announced ane absolute judgement aganest the familie of Durie. The Presbytrie gives warrand to him for sowmoning witnesses the nixt day to that effect. A paper of supplication and ane act of sessioun from Dysert the former day given in be Mr William Simpson, Baillie, David Crystie, David Constable, and others craveing that Mr James Wilson may be resaved parson of Dysert was continewed to this day. Ane other paper resaved this day from Dysert in the contrair given in be Robert Cunningham, Baillie, and others. All continewed to the nixt day in respect none of the first ar present. Compeired the Laird of Orrok and James Robertson of Newbigging anent thair seatts in the kirk of Burntiland bringing with them a new overture from the sessioun thair whilk overture the Presbytrie having considered and finding the gentlemen not satisfied thairwith the sessioun having passed by and slighted the overtures proponed to them be the Presbytrie doe declaire that they ar not satisfied with that overture and thairfoir desyres Mr Georg Nairne, minister and the Ryt Hon Sr James Melvill of Hallhill ruleing elder for the time to signifie the same to the sessioun of Burntiland and withall to deall with them that they would be pleased some more for the satisfaction of these gentlemen that peace and love may be continewed.

DYSERT, *March* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . David Crystie in Dysert and Archbald Halkhead, Baillie there, compeireing both passes from and resiles from the supplication given in be them in favors of Mr James Wilsone relating to the parsonage of Dysert for thair part, no moe for that first supplication compeireing.

Compeired Robert Cunningham, John Gay, and the Laird of Skedowie presentors of the 2 supplication: all continewed to this day fyftein dayes. Mrs Fred Carmichael, Harie Wilkie, Thomas Blak, ministers; and the Lairds of Fingask and Kirkforther, ruleing elders appoynted to meitt at Kennoquhie and deall thair anent the kirk manss with the heretors. Alexander Thomson a sailor in Anstruther lamed of one arm recommended to the Synod for charitie. Compeired Isobell Paxton trelapse in fornication: resaved hir last injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *March* 30.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the controversie betwixt Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Robert Hunter the Presbytrie appoynts thair brether Mrs Georg Ogilbie, James Wilsone, Georg Nairne, to goe forth and speak with Mr Alexander and deall with him that he would leave off all persute in this purpose, who reported that he absolutelie refused. Mr Alexander declaires that the thing he challenges Mr

Robert all is true and Mr Robert affirms that Mr Alexander pronounced ane heavie judgement aganest the whole house of Durie, whilk the said Mr Alexr denyes.

Compeired Sr David Auchmowtie, James Wood of Lambielethem, Mr David Ingles, Mr Edmond Cranstown, Mr Robert Blak, David Weyms of Fingask, Georg Strachan, William Thomson, Andro Henrieson, James Turpie, George Thomson, Henrie Anderson, witness for proveing the mater on hand and admitted and sworn deponed as follows—Sr David Auchmowtie being called, deponed that Mr Alexander denounced ane absolute judgement aganest the house of Durie the words being (poynting to the familie of Durie) that God wold root them out root and branche and wipe them as ane wipes a dish with a mans hand. James Wood of Lambielethem deponed that ane absolute judgement was denounced poynting to my Lord not preserved bot reserved for a greater judgement or something of this kind without any condition so far as he remembered. Mr David Ingles called, deponed that when my Lord was goeing to the engagement viz poynting to Durie that God wold destroy that house root and branche and that thair should not be a memorie of it and wipe it upsyde down as one wipes a dish, without remembering any condition. Georg Strachan deponed that he hard him denounce a judgement bot not ane absolute and that he hard of root and branche bot knew not aganest whom. William Thomson deponed he hard a judgement denounced aganest that familie, bot conseaved the familie of Durie, and that it was absolute as he remembers that God wold turn them upsyde down root out thair posteritie and wipe them as a man wipes a dish and in the judgement of charitie the condition was understood did he think. John Strachan deponed that he denounced a judgement bot remembers not whither it was absolute or not, and remembers no condition. Andro Henderson deponed he did not remember whither he denounced an absolute judgement. Mr Edmond Cranstown deponed he remembrit he did not name the familie of Durie bot a verie heavie judgement was denounced viz that God wold wipe away that familie as a man wipes a dish without any condition that he remembers. James Turpie deponed he hard him denounce a judgement bot knew not whither it was absolute or not, and that thair was not a familie at that time bot that whilks was for the engagement. Georg Thomson deponed he hard him denounce a judgement and that I am not a scholler and readie to tak tent to ane ill tail bot not to a good. Henrie Anderson deponed—I cannot remember anything to the purpose. David Weyms of Fingask deponed that he denounced judgement aganest us all and I took it many times to me and he spoke aganest thair courses bot no so absolute did I think without respect to the Lords mercie or thair repentance. Mr Robert Blak deponed he never hard him denounce ane absolute judgement aganest the familie of Durie so far as he remembers bot that he spak aganest the malignant partie.

Mr James Wilsone declaires that he passes from the supplication given in in his name relating to the parsonage of Dysert for his owne part.

According to the laudable form of the kirk the brethren wer all severallie removed for thair tryells and wer all approven except the thrie brethren who ar not for the public resolutions and for keiping the fasts with the rest and Mr James

Wilson also for employing deposed ministers to preach in his pulpett and Mr Georg Nairne for not giving the communion this long time begone.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

DYSERT, *April* 13, 1653.

The whilk day . . . . . All the brether reported that they had keipt both the dayes of the fast except Mr James Wilsone who keipt not with the rest nor yit for all the reasons. Mr Alexander Moncreif and Mr Georg Nairne reported negative; thair reasons wer they wer not satisfied with the authoritie by which they wer appoynted naither with some of the reasons of the fast. The Presbytrie ar not satisfied with this thair anser. Anent the mater and controversie betwixt Mr Alexr Moncreif and Mr Robert Hunter the Presbytrie appoynts Mr Georg Ogilbie and Mr Thomas Blak and the Laird of Fingask ruleing elder to deall to settle these parties betwixt and this day fyftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *April* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . The brether who ar appoynted to goe to Kennoquhie for dealling to make the kirk manss frie to the intrant reported that they had done nothing.

The Presbytrie appoynts them yit to goe thither the morn fyftein dayes for the same effect. Alexander Thomson a lame sodger in Anstruther craveing some supplie the brether promeises to help within a month.

DYSERT, *Maii* 11.

The whilk day . . . . . Compeired Archbald Halkhead, and Robert Cunningham, Baillies of Dysert who gave in ane supplication in thair own names and in names of the counsellors and sessioners of Dysert craving that the Presbytrie wold he pleased to tak the conditioun of thair vaikand place to thair consideration. The Presbytrie ansers that thair first supplicatioun is in the way which must be taine up befoir any further. Anent the meitting at Kennoquhie the minister reported that the heretors and paroshiners ar content to agree among themselfs anent the settling of the kirk manss and thairfoir the ministers need not to meitt for that mater. Mr Georg Ogilbie reported that he spak with Mr Alexr Moncreif desyreing him that he wold be pleased that thair might be no more debate about that he challenged Mr Robert Hunter for affirming one of his ansers that he should have denounced ane absolute judgement aganest the familie of Durie if the said Mr Robert should acknowledge befoir the Presbytrie that these words wer rashlie spoken by him to whilk Mr Alexander ansered that for his own credit or anything concerning his person he could easilie pass from it bot in respect of his ministrie in that congregatione he could not see how it could now be so settled that he should now consent to the taking away of the mater befoir it was formallie dealt with. James Weyms of Pitkennie acknowledged his fault in his accession to the sinfull engagement and subscryved the declaratioun whilk was done by the authoritie of the Presbytrie. 10 lbs 2 sh resaved from Kennoquhie and Ballingrie, 40 sh in the clerks hands delyvered for the supplicants,

KIRKCALDIE, *Maii* 18.

The whilk day . . . . . The Bailie of Dysert, David Crystie and Mr James Wilson in name of the session having taken up thair former supplications in relation to Mr James Wilson for succeeding to the parsons place of Dysert, this day Archbald Halkhead and Robert Cunningham presented ane new supplication to the Presbytrie for filling up thair vaikand place in the ministrie: anser continewed to the nixt day.

Compeired John Balcaise in Ballingrie for contracting one woman, lying with another woman, and making promeise of mariage to hir: remitted to the nixt day. Compeired Jean Cuseing who haveing committed fornication in Auchtertule long since and delayed hir repentance: sharplie rebuked; promeises to mak hir repentance with all diligence. Compeired Margaret Gourlay for disobedience to the session of Auchtertule: promeises obedience: remitts hir againe to the said session.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 1.

The whilk day . . . . . Appoynts to tak some solid courss the nixt day for entertainment of the foundling boy in the Weyms. Appoynts to put an end the nixt day to Mr Alexander Moncreifs process. John Balcaise for his levitie in his mariage remitted to the Synod. Compeired Isobell Todd in Abbotshall trelapse in fornication: ordeaned to satisfie as ane adultress: resaved hir injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 15.

The whilk day . . . . . Ane article of overture produced be Mr James Wilson wherein he alledges right to the vaikand place in Dysert: to be considered the nixt day. Janet Lillie in Kingorne being yit obstinate to the discipline of the kirk, the Presbytrie ordeanes the minister to proceed aganest hir. Anent the foundling in Weyms the brether desyres Mr Harie Wilkie to do als cheap as he can for the enterteinment of it and they shall pay thair proportions.

The captives of Newcastle remembrit.

KIRKCALDIE, *Junii* 2.

The whilk day . . . . . The Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Josua Meldrome and Georg Ogilbie, yit to goe and speak to Mr Alexander Moncreif to see if he will yit be content that the mater betwixt him and Mr Robert Hunter be taine away in a friendlie maner so as not to be prejudicial to his ministrie nor rubb any way upon himself. The Presbytrie agrees that everie kirk sall pay a merk everie quarter for the enterteining of the foundling boy in the Weyms. The Presbytrie finding that Mr Alexander Moncreif will not yit condescend that his mater with Mr Robert Hunter be taine away without judgeing of it taks the same to thair consideration and finds that thair was ane judgement denounced without any express condition as also finds that Mr Robert Hunter hes taken ane judgment pronounced without exception mentioned for ane absolute judgement and yit cannot say considering the deposition of witnesses that he is ane caluminator and thairfoir ordeanes that he sall have ane testimonial. The Presbytrie appoynts Mr John Chalmer, Mr Josua

Meldrome, and Mr Kenneth Logie to meitt at Mr Pat Weyms chalmer on Tysday nixt upon ane afternoon for drawing up the Presbytries judgement and the draft of Mr Robert his testimonial.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 6.

The whilk day . . . . . Anent the chuseing of commissioners for the Generall Assemblie the brethren all voyced except Mr Alexander Moncreif, Mr James Wilsone and Mr Georg Nairne who wold not vote bot adhered to thair former protestations. Mr Frederik Carmichael and Mr Thomas Blak, and Mr Patrik Weyms wer chosen commissioners and the Laird of Inchdairnie ruleing elder. The brether to whom the Presbytries judgment was appoynted to be drawn up anent Mr Alexander Moncreifs process with Mr Robert Hunter delyvered the samyne thus:—The Presbytrie after serious consideratioun of the challenge given in be Mr Alexander Moncreif aganest Mr Robert Hunter whereby he should have caluminate him in affirming that he did denounce ane absolute judgement aganest the familie of Durie as also having considered the disposition of witnesses cited at Mr Roberts instance for proveing the same and cleiring himself of that calumnie the Presbytrie having deliberatlie considered the premises finds thair hes been ane sad judgement pronounced aganest the familie without any exception or condition expressed and that Mr Robert hes taken ane judgement so pronounced for ane absolute judgement yit judged by what is deponed that he is not ane calumniator and thairfoir ordeanes that he shall have ane testimonial. The Presbytrie approves the samyne bot delays the delyverie of the testimonial till Mr Robert himself be present.

Compeired Robert White in Linktown of Abbotshall: confessed adultrie with Helen Robertson: resaved his first injunctions.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . The commissioners for the Generall Assemblie craveing that they may have assessors with them the Presbytrie appoynts Mrs Robert Mercer, John Chalmer, and Georg Ogilbie to be with them and give attendance and advyse if neid be. James Gourlay and David Ramage, salters in Kirkcaldie being thryse sowmonit to compeire befoir the sessioun of the Weyms for profaning the Sabbath thay not compeiring ar ordeaned to be sowmonit publicklie. Compeired William Simpson and Robert Cunningham, baillies of Dysert who gave in ane act of thair sessioun bearing ane absolute submissioun to the Presbytrie to fill up the vaiking place of thair Ministrie as also ane act of thair town counsell for the same effect. Mr James Wilson also for himself submitts himself thairto.

KIRKCALDIE, *Julii* 27.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr William Cochran desyred of the Presbytrie that seeing the committee for planting the kirk of Creigh had desiderate Mr James Wilsons subscription to his testimonial the Presbytrie wold be pleased to require of him the cause of his refusal whereto the Presbytrie assented and appoynts Mr James Wilson to be present the nixt day and to give in his reasons by proving what he can alledge him.

DYSERT, *August* 3.

The whilk day . . . . . Mr Alexander Moncreif reported that he had declaired the mater anent the annexing of Dubbowsyde to Skunie paroshe to his sessioun who wer aganest the samyne. Mr Alexander is appoynted to declair the same to his elders and heretors and to report thair anser the nixt day. Mr James Wilsone in reference to the last days act gave in his reasons why he refused to subscryve Mr William Cochranes testimonial viz :—1 Because, he says, I am informed that he said the curse of God wold be upon Mr Samuel Rutherfuird. 2 That he said if the malignants should prevail none in Scotland should cry them up more than he. 3 In misreporting me to some of the Presbytrie saying that I said we wer shortlie to get power in our hands then wold thair be vaiking kirks even in Fyff at our disposing. 4 That he hath bein living in the houss of a man verie scandalous and never delated him to elders or minister. 5 Says he, I am informed that Mr William said after the meitting of some honest ministers and professors at which I was present that they wer bot a pack of knaves. Mr William heiring the reasons read ansered to the 1 and 2 negative as to the 3 he ansered denying that he said that Mr James Wilsone had said so bot that he hard one say it was Mr James Wilson and to the 4 he ansered that he lived in the house bot had ane chalmer tuo houses high above as also that he delated him.

Appoynts Mr James Wilson to design witnesses for proveing his allegeances who designes Georg Birsbean, David Trotter, his wyff and hir sister and others. The Presbytrie ordeanes the clerk to give him ane warrand for sowmoning and be reason the greatest part of them remains at Edr to acquaint the sessioun of Edr thairof.

Compeired Archbald Halkhead, Baillie of Dysert who declaired that the counsell and sessioun of Dysert had reciled and passed from these papers which they gave last. The Presbytrie desyres them to produce these papers agane and thairafter if they please to tak them up and doe with them what they please aganest this day fiftein dayes.

KIRKCALDIE, *August* 17.

The whilk day . . . . . The Baillies of Dysert desyred that thair kirk might be provyded. The Presbytrie nominates thrie to be hard be them viz Mr Alexander Dickson, Mr Andro Pitcairne, and Mr Andro Lothian, who is appoynted to preache at Dysert the nixt day and the other tuo in thair courses. Anent Dubbowsyde the minister of Skunie for the sessioun returned this anser to the Presbytrie that they could doe nothing in the business of Dubbowsyde without the assistance of the heretors with whom they were labouring to know thair mind, and so soon as the could have satisfaction thairin they wold farther anser to the Presbytrie.

Mr Jamcs Wilson declairs he hes no more reasons why he refuses to subscryve Mr William Cochranes testimonial then he hes given in in writt and designes Margt Richardson and Annie Peddie hir dochter for proving of some of his allegeances. Georg Brisbane and David Trotter witness for Mr James Wilson being called and

not compeireing the Presbytrie resolves to writt to the great sessioun of Edr to sowmoned them to compeire this day fyftein dayes.

Compeired Alexander Robertson of Burntiland, who refuses to obey the kirk for his fornication with Elspett Roxburgh: ordeanes him to obey yit desyres Mr Josua Meldrome and Mr Andro Walker to deall with him that he may obey.

DYSERT, *August* 31.

The whilk day . . . . . Dysert gave back thair paper wherein they submitted the planting of thair kirk to the Presbytrie absolutlie from the which afterwards they resiled—The Presbytrie appoynts the clerk to tak the double of it and keeps it *in retentis* and render thair papers back again—A letter resaved from the Presbytrie of Cuper desyreing these brether who ar upon the Committee for planting the kirk of Creigh to meitt with them at Cuper Thursday nixt. Compeired Mr David Thomson to bear witness for Mr Jas Wilson aganest Mr Wm Cochran. The said Mr William objects to him 1 becaus he had spoken to the minister of another Presbytrie in his prejudice 2 because the said Mr Dav had said It was the spirit of the devill that spak in the said Mr Wm, as also that the said Mr Wm was given to drunkenness. The Presbytrie finds that the said Mr David cannot be admittit witness against the said Mr Wm Cochran for the reasons foirsaid. Ordeanes him to prove drunkenness against this day fiftein dayes. Mr David says he will avowe and prove it and for that effect designes witness for proveing it James Bunthorn and his wyff and desynes the tyme to have bein when some men come from Cuper and desyred him to come and preache at Cuper; as also designes a second tyme in his own fathers house, and offers him to prove that be the said James Bunthorn and his own elder brother. The Presbytrie ordeans the clerk to give him ane warrand for summoning his witness. The said Mr David also confessed that he said to Mr James Wilson that Mr Wm Cochran said that the curse of God wold come on Mr Samuel Rutherfuird.

Compeired Margt Richardsone and Anna Peddie hir dochter as witnesses for proveing that poynt of Mr Ja Wilsons alledgance against Mr Wm Cochran, viz that these ministers who mett at Edr, whereof Mr James was one, wer all fals knaves etc whilk speech the said Mr Wm deneyed and objects against the witnesses as informers: continews all to this day fiftein dayes and sumonds all *apud acta* to be present the said day. The Synod book delyvered.

KIRKCALDIE, *Sept.* 14.

The whilk day . . . . . Leaves Mr Ja Wilsons mater with Mr Wm Cochran in respect of Mr Jas his absence, who sent his excuse, as also no anser from Edr anent the witnesses. Appoynts to meit this day eight dayes for this mater and for discipline onlie. Margt Richardson and Anna Pedie witnesses, called: compeired not: to be sowmoned to the nixt day. Thomas Blak appoynted to preache at Abbotshall the nixt Sabbath upon the ministers desyre, he being sick. Tynmouth prisoners remembrit.

KIRKCALDIE, *September* 21.

The whilk day the brether met for disciplin : absents onlie Mr Alexr Moncreif, Mr John Litiljohn present from the Presbytrie of Cuper for correspondence declaired that thair Presbytrie with the Presbytrie of St Androis had concludit the Synod to meit at St Androis upon Tysday nixt.

A letter resaved from a gentleman anent the prisners at Tynmouth. The brethren promeisses to use diligence within a moneth for thair supplie. Compeired James Bunthorn in Dysert witness for Mr David Thomson against Mr William Cochran for proveing him to be given to drunkenness whilk he said he wold prove against him and designate one time when some one of Cuper came to desyre him to come and preache at Cuper, who being admittit and deiple sworne depond negative . . . The said Mr David gives up Anna Pedie and Janet Sindie as witnesses for proveing Mr William to have been drunken and passes from all further alledgeances against him. Mr Jas Wilson refuses to distinguishe betwixt his informers and witnesses in Edr against Mr William Cochran. The Presbytrie resolves to writt to the greate sessioun of Edr to try these witnesses thair. Mr Jas Wilson passes from Georg Birsbean in Edr upon his testificat read in the Presbytrie wherein he cleirs Mr Wm Cochran of speaking anything against Mr Samuel Rutherfuird or anything els of that kynd.

Mr Wm Cochran excepts against David Trotter as witnes aganest him as minor and not of perfyte age; as also aganst the tuo women in respect Mr James Wilson in the sessioun of Dysert affirmed that they were his informers. Mr Andro Walker being present in the sessioun of Dysert when Mr James refused Mr Williams testimoniall depons upon his oath he hard Mr James say that he was informed of something against Mr William bot remembers not further. The Presbytrie gives warrand to Mr William Cochran for sowmonding witnesses to prove that Mr Jas Wilsone said he was informed be these persons in Edr.

Margaret Richardson and Anna Pedie hir dochter being sowmonit pro 2, called : compeired not : to be sowmonit to the nixt day pro 3. James Hogg in Auchterdirran being sowmonit, called : compeired not : ordeaned to be sowmonit, pro 3.

Compeired John Schorteous quadrilapse in fornicatioun : ordeaned to satisfie as ane adulterer.

Compeired Anna Pedie : Mr William Cochran excepts aganst hir mother and hir and gave in his reasons whereof one was that Mr James Wilson desyred them to byd be ; whilk the said Anna Pedie being posed confessed. Anna Pedie sowmoned *apud acta* to compeir this day fiftein dayes and hir mother to be sowmonit thairto gives warrand to Mr Wm to sowmond Arch Halkhead, Wm Symson and Wm Mader. 30 sh given be Mr Tho Melvill to Kairncros and Mc Laine ; also 30 sh given be Mr Geo Ogilbie to them.

Appoynts the nixt meeting to be this day fiftein dayes at Kirkcaldie.

The mater of Dubbosyde referred to the Synod again. According to the

laudable form the brethren wer severallie removed for thair tryells and all approven except in that wherein the Presbytrie had excepted formerlie anent these who differed from them in maters of the General Assemblie and thairfoir excepts as befoir.

Mr J. Miller, Scrib to the Presbytrie of Kirkcaldie.

THE END

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PRINTED BY J. W. M'LAREN AND CO.,
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